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Issue No 73

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February 4, 2009



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**TOP TV CLIPS**



**1** Monday's snowstorms caught on video by viewers. See the community channel and search 'snow'



**2** Julie Maddocks visits the RSPCA in Leybourne. See the community channel and search 'RSPCA'



**3** Reaction to plans for more sex offenders at Maidstone prison. See the community channel and search 'prison'

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# Perfect gent's parting gift to home staff

■ BY ANNA WHITE

STAFF at a care home received an early Christmas gift last year from a former resident who had died the previous Christmas.

Raymond Simmons, 92, succumbed to cancer at Greensted care home in Wateringbury, on December 19, 2007, but a year later he was still spreading his kindness.

Just before Christmas 2008, more than 40 staff at the Abbeyfield Kent Society-run home – from the manager to care assistants and even the handyman – each received a cheque for £171 which Mr Simmons had left them in his will.

Mr Simmons has been described as "the perfect gentleman" and the home manager Sue Imms said he was much loved by all the staff.

She said: "He was such a nice man with a kind word for everyone, but it was a surprise when he came to me and said he wanted to remember us in his will.

"He was a single man and always very appreciative of the standard of care he received at Greensted. This was his way of saying thank you.

"He wanted to make sure every member of staff who had worked at Greensted during the time he was a resident benefited from his will – even those who had left for other jobs."

Mr Simmons had arranged for the payments to be made through his solicitor, but because his assets were in shares it took time to finalise his will and staff only recently received their gifts.

Before Mr Simmons moved into Greensted he lived at the Old Tovil Road sheltered scheme, also run by Abbeyfield, where residents still talk



**PERFECT GENTLEMAN:** Raymond Simmons rewarded care home staff in his will

about him with great affection.

Ms Imms said: "We were all overwhelmed by his generosity.

"Raymond needed a lot of care towards the end of his life and it seemed extra special when the money came through just before Christmas. We will always remember him."

Abbeyfield Kent Society is a leading provider of residential care and sheltered accommodation for more than 400 people in the South East.

The society owns and manages nine residential care homes and has sheltered accommodation throughout Kent.

**yourmaidstone**  
**NEWS IN BRIEF**

## Roald Dahl workshop for half-term young

THE Hazlitt Arts Centre will be holding a six-day workshop to keep the kids entertained during half-term.

The workshop, for six to 11-year-olds, will focus on Roald Dahl's The Fantastic Mr Fox.

From Monday to Saturday, February 16-21, between 10.30am and 3.30pm, youngsters will be preparing for a performance at 5pm on the final day.

The course costs £65, which includes two tickets for the performance. Extra tickets are £6.

To book either course or show tickets, call 01622 758611.

## Spring into action on fundraising ramble

THOUSANDS are expected to join the Heart of Kent Hospice's annual Bluebell Walk this spring.

The popular charity event, which guides ramblers through the North Downs to view Kent's bluebells in full bloom, will take place on Sunday, May 3.

The hospice's Stephen Fuller said: "The Bluebell Walk is ideal for all ages and the pet dog, too."

"There will be a halfway stop at the Ringlestone Inn and a ploughman's lunch for all walkers at the end."

Anyone interested is urged to pencil the date in their diaries.

## Bin the bag campaign wins more backers

MORE retailers are backing Town Centre Management's scheme to rid Maidstone of plastic bags.

Since the Bin the Plastic Bag campaign was launched last month, additional stores have joined in.

The latest town centre retailers to back the scheme include Lush, Boots and Payden's Pharmacy. And those lending their names to the cause include Fremlin Walk manager Lloyd Wright, Mayor of Maidstone Cllr Denise Joy and Cllr Tony Harwood.

The campaign also has its own poem, by Boughton Monchelsea wordsmith John Phillips, called Ode to a Carrier Bag.

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# Alarm at jail's switch to sex offenders unit

■ BY ANNA WHITE

A DECISION to convert Maidstone Prison into a sex offenders unit within the next four months has shocked neighbours.

They say such a unit is not suitable for a town centre location and fear it will drive down property prices.

The Prison Service revealed last week that by the end of June the majority of inmates housed at the County Road jail will be sex offenders.

Other offenders now at HMP Maidstone will be moved to other prisons, but a small unit for foreign prisoners waiting to be removed by the UK Border Agency will remain.

A Prison Service spokesman said: "In the next few months Maidstone will be changing its prisoner population as it expands its role in providing sex offender treatment programmes.

"By June 30, apart from a small population of foreign national prisoners, Maidstone will be dedicated to the delivery of these programmes.

"The dedicated foreign national prisoner unit will mean the UK Border Agency will be able to process removal proceedings more quickly."

Yourmaidstone took the streets to hear what residents had to say about their new neighbours.

Kay Breden, 24, who lives in Maidstone and has a ten-



A BAD IDEA:  
Kay Breden



CLOSED DOORS: Most inmates at HMP Maidstone will be sex offenders by the end of June

month-old baby, said: "We don't need people like that here. It is right in the town centre and people with kids won't be happy."

"Parents with gardens and houses near the prison will not be happy. A specialised sex offenders unit should be in the middle of nowhere, not in a town centre."

Andrew Sawyer, 18, from Coxheath, said: "It could make people who live nearby want to sell up and people

won't want to move here. I think it will put people off coming to Maidstone."

Carla Shade, from Larkfield, 19, thought victims of sexual abuse would find the news upsetting.

And Mr and Mrs Edwards, 72 and 71, from Rochester, said they were relieved the sex offenders won't be living near them. Mrs Edwards said: "Put it this way, I wouldn't want it on my doorstep, especially as it is in the town centre in Maidstone."



OFFPUTTING:  
Andrew Sawyer

## Gateway uproar

FROM FRONT PAGE  
six weeks from the start date. Maidstone council will still make a ruling on the application and present its case to the inquiry.

Chairman of Stop KIG Richard Horton said: "KIG want to stifle the views of Maidstone. They are attempting to manipulate the planning system. We need to let the Secretary of State hear the deafening roar of 'No' from Kent. Maidstone will not be sidelined."

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "If KIG goes ahead it will devastate this special area of Maidstone. We will make sure we have the best consultants to fight this outrageous planning application all the way."

Maidstone's Cllr Dan Daley also took the opportunity to speak for the first time in public regarding KIG. "I am putting my own name on the line now, but I am totally against this," he said.

Cllr Carter had previously said Maidstone council leader Cllr Chris Garland had been legally advised not to attend the meeting as the council is still the planning application authority.

The panel encouraged the audience to contact Maidstone council to oppose the KIG proposal by the final deadline this Friday. All comments will be sent to the planning inspector if it goes to an inquiry.

Send your comments in writing to: Steve Clarke, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone ME15 6JQ, or by email to [KIGcomments@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:KIGcomments@maidstone.gov.uk).

## Police pleased by response to BBC murder appeal

A BBC Crimewatch appeal for information about the unsolved murder of Danny King has provided police with several new leads.

The 51-year-old was found with multiple gunshot wounds at his home in Maidstone on the evening of Friday, October 17, last year.

At the time of Mr King's murder he was in bed. His wife, son and grandchildren were asleep in nearby rooms.

Officers investigating the case have so far been unable to track down his killers and on Tuesday, last week, turned to viewers of the BBC television programme for help.

Det Ch Insp John Bumpus spoke on the live broadcast, which featured CCTV footage of two men running out of Medina Road, where Mr King lived, and getting into a car parked on New Road in Darton.

He said: "In my view I believe these two people are involved in the

shooting of Danny."

Det Ch Insp Bumpus also said police received a number of leads both during the live appeal and also throughout the week.

He said: "The calls we received confirmed information we were already aware of, which is always useful and important."

"The response to the Crimewatch appeal has continued, with some interesting leads we are actively pursuing."

Meanwhile, a man was arrested on suspicion of an unrelated burglary the day after the same appeal.

The two men caught on CCTV running away from Mr King's road drove away in a Peugeot 207, which was the same model used for the burglary in Darton.

Anyone with information about the killing should call Kent Police on 01622 654863 or email [danKingAppeal@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:danKingAppeal@kent.pnn.police.uk).

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## Hammer raiders threaten staff

THREE masked raiders forced their way into a supermarket using sledgehammers shortly after the store closed at the weekend.

The men broke through a fire door at Asda, in Kings Hill, at about 9.30pm on Saturday.

The offenders, who were wearing balaclavas, threatened staff before grabbing a cash trolley and fleeing. No one was hurt during the raid.

Police have carried out a forensic investigation and are viewing CCTV footage.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the police on 01732 379217, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Information can also be emailed to [appeals.westkent@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:appeals.westkent@kent.pnn.police.uk)



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## Ensuring your Valentine is good enough to eat

CHOCOLATE beauty treatments used by celebrities will be available at a Maidstone salon in time for Valentine's Day.

The treatments, by Karin Herog, whose products are favoured by the likes of Kylie Minogue and Cameron Diaz, are available at the Courtyard Health and Beauty Spa, in Bank Street. The salon is the only one in the Kent to offer the full range of products and therapies. Prices start at £55. Call 01622 753344 or visit [www.the-courtyard.org](http://www.the-courtyard.org).

## A flipping good time for hospice pancake teams

TEAMS are needed to take part in flipping good fun at a charity pancake race.

The Heart of Kent Hospice pancake race is at Fremlin Walk on February 24, with heats starting at 12.30pm.

Teams are made up of four 'flippers' and it costs £50 to take part, with sponsorship on top. Entrants need to bring their own frying pans but pancakes are provided.

For more information and entry details, telephone 01622 790195.

## Young athletes become prize guys at ceremony

THE county town's top young athletes were the stars of an awards night.

The Youth Sport Achievement Awards, which is now in its 18th year, were held at Mote Park on Friday. Mayor Denise Joy and Millwall FC footballer Danny Spiller presented the prizes.

Eastborough and Allington schools were joint first in the primary category and Maplesden Noakes won the secondary school accolade.

## Chance to shape county town's vision of future

RESIDENTS have only two weeks left to comment on Maidstone council's strategic plan for the next three years.

The plan sets out how the council will achieve its goals from 2009-12. County town residents are being asked to share their views to ensure their priorities are reflected in the final plan.

The plan is available to view online at [www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk/yoursay](http://www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk/yoursay) or at the new Maidstone Gateway in King Street.

# Family park returns with half-term fun

SIX youngsters have seen off the challenge of dozens of hopefuls to be selected to sit on the Hop Farm's mini board of directors.

The Hop Farm, at Paddock Wood, was close during the Christmas holiday period for improvements to its site, but has now chosen the young recruits to help it come back with a bang in 2009.

After going through almost 40 applications, site owner Peter Bull and his team whittled the field down to the final six.

The mini board of directors are:

- Tim Downes, aged eight, from Langton Green, who has Down's Syndrome and will be representing disabled children;
- Connor Simms, nine, from Maidstone, a member of his school's break-dance club and a keen athlete. He is interested in improving exercise-based activities;
- Sophie Lemaux, six, from Maidstone, wants to help others less fortunate than herself;
- Amelia Farrant, eight, from Coxheath, is keen to improve the environment;
- Peter Barrett, six, from Laddingford, wants to see more interesting attractions.

■ BY ANNA WHITE

tions for older children.

• Cameron Hooper, nine, from Allington, is a vice-school representative and is looking forward to demonstrating his diplomacy skills within the board.

The finalists will spend their time rubbing shoulders with celebrities, appearing in press calls and meeting journalists at exclusive previews of new attractions.

The youngsters will meet for the first time on Saturday at the Hop Farm to discuss and compare their ideas.

Saturday will be the first day the Hop Farm has been open to the public since December 1.

At the time, Mr Bull said: "We've recently taken delivery of a beautifully restored Victorian carousel which is being assembled on site and are about to start work on an exciting new attraction which will open for February half-term."

They have said 2009 promises to be a successful year for the family park with lots of events taking place and the unveiling of two new attractions during fairy tale-themed half-term, from February 14 to 22.



A KIND OF MAGIC: The Hop Farm is ready to reopen for half-term with new attractions and a mini board of six young directors

## It's Julie's guide to a holiday that won't break the bank

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el thousands of miles, when there is so much to offer in the County of Kent? Julie looks at how you can save money and enjoy what's on your doorstep. It is one is a series of videos made for [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk) helping you to save cash during the current tough economic climate.

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# Insisting on a change of Hart over memorial to artist Tony

■ BY ANNA WHITE

COUNCIL chiefs have bowed to public pressure after initially ruling out a memorial for artist Tony Hart in the county town.

They now say a statue of the Maidstone-born TV presenter or his cherished creation Morph could be installed in the town centre – but only if the public pays for it.

Maidstone council last week said it had no plans to commission a memorial to the star of children's shows Vision On, Take Hart and Hart Beat.

But after nearly 4,000 people joined an online campaign on social networking website Facebook, the council has had a change of heart.

A council official said: "We don't have any plans to commission a statue of Tony Hart or Morph and would only consider a memorial if there is a strong and real public demand and if it is fully funded by public subscription."

A group calling itself Maidstone Would Like a Statue or Memorial of Maidstonian Tony Hart suggests something could be built for the much-loved artist as part of the council's plan to improve the High Street.

The group's organiser, who calls himself Lord Trotsky, is now trying to drum up more support and is encouraging fans of Mr Hart to contact the council. He said: "If enough people let them know it is something Maidstone wants, then it can still happen."

"People forget that Maidstone is their town and the council is employed by us to run it. If enough people ask for a memorial, I can't see any reason for the council not to do it."

"It would also be a statement that our town was the birthplace of a man who inspired millions. I was overwhelmed by the response to the campaign and delighted by all the messages of support. It shows how many people were touched by Tony's gentle enthusiasm."

Yourmaidstone asked people if they thought there should be a memorial in the town centre and received a positive reaction.

Gaynor Chessex, 33, from Kings Hill, said: "He has done a lot for many generations and it would be nice to have something."

Brenda Sharp, 69, from Maidstone, said: "Tony Hart inspired many people, including my children's generation. It would be nice to give him the recognition he deserves."

Mr Hart's funeral took place on Thursday at Shamley Green, Surrey, where the artist lived for 40 years. Mr Hart, who died peacefully at his home aged 83 on January 18, was born in Hastings Road, Maidstone, on October 15, 1925, and attended St Margaret's Pre-Prep School.

He served as an officer with the 1st Gurkha Rifles in World War Two before studying art at Maidstone College of Art – now the University of Creative Arts – graduating in 1950 and starting his 50-year TV career.



**GENTLE CHARM:** Maidstonian Tony Hart inspired millions during a 50-year television career

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**YOU SAY:** Watch a video clip of people's views about a Tony Hart memorial. Search 'Hart'

## yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

### College's sporting chance

KCC leader Paul Carter has officially opened the new Aylesford Sports College.

Cllr Carter was joined by cabinet member for education Cllr Mark Dance in unveiling a plaque to celebrate the school's new buildings on Monday last week.

The council leader and other guests were then given a tour of the site, which includes a gymnasium and science zone.

Aylesford Sports College now boasts the latest technology and facilities and is one of the six secondary schools in the county to have benefited from a multi-million pound private finance initiative.

The school specialises in sport and science and last year saw a 23 per cent increase from 2007 in the number of students achieving five A\* to C grades, its best results yet.

Headteacher Doug Lawson said: "The investment is already paying off and we are determined to continue the upward trend."

### Boxing clever for charity

FISTS will fly at an Aylesford pub when a virtual boxing tournament gets under way.

The charity computer contest will see entrants go head-to-head in the Lower Bell pub's Wii boxing battle tomorrow (Thursday) night, with the first bout at 7pm.

The night has been arranged by Medway police sergeant Bob Bangle.

He said: "It costs £5 to enter and we'll have a knockout tournament with the winner getting £100 in gift vouchers. All the extra money raised will be going to the Demelza children's hospice at Bobbing."

### Teaming up with hotel

STAFF at the Village Hotel are looking forward to teaming-up with Maidstone Rugby Club.

The hotel has announced it will sponsor the team for £3,000 for the 2009-10 season.

The team will sport the Village Hotel logo on their shirts and have it printed on rugby balls and displayed on their website.

Twenty members of the team have already used the facilities at the hotel's fitness club.

The Village Hotel will give Maidstone Rugby Club a sponsorship cheque for £3,000 in an upcoming presentation ceremony.

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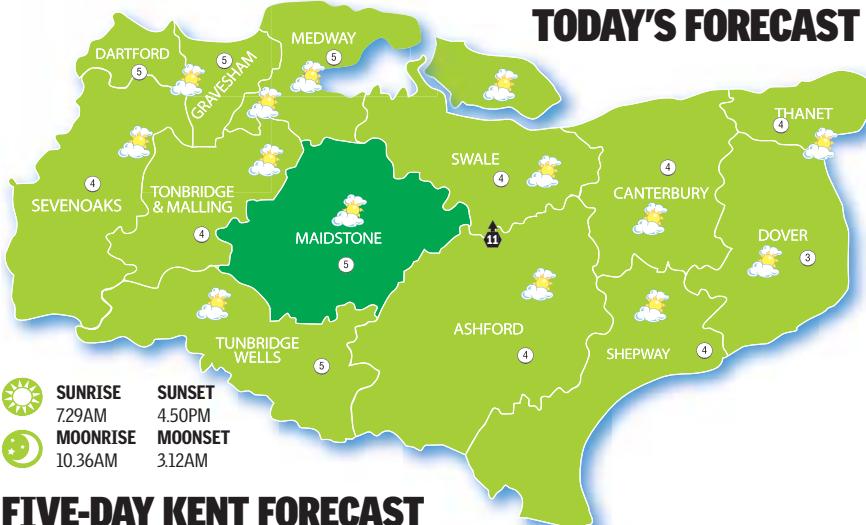
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## TODAY'S FORECAST

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## WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

<b>Chatham</b>	Saturday	10:29am	5.4m
	Sunday	11:37am	5.8m
<b>Dover</b>	Saturday	8:55am	5.9m
	Sunday	9:57am	6.3m
<b>Dungeness</b>	Saturday	8:47am	6.6m
	Sunday	9:49am	7.0m
<b>Ramsgate</b>	Saturday	9:25am	4.5m
	Sunday	10:27am	4.8m
<b>Sheerness</b>	Saturday	10:18am	5.2m
	Sunday	11:26am	5.5m
<b>Whitstable</b>	Saturday	10:30am	4.9m
	Sunday	11:39am	5.2m



**SUCCESS:** Officers of the neighbourhood task team have made an immediate impact on anti-social behaviour

## Police squad tackling anti-social behaviour

FIGURES have been released which show the neighbourhood task team for Mid Kent has had an immediate impact.

The team was set up to crack down on anti-social behaviour and target key crime hotspots.

Officers say the group – which is active across Maidstone and Swale – has proved a success, bringing reductions in the number of incidents related to anti-social behaviour and racking up a number of key arrests.

Since its launch last September, the team has made 67 arrests, seized 14 vehicles and played a part in reducing the number of incidents regarding anti-social behaviour by 25 per cent from 179 in 2007 to 134 during the same period in 2008.

The team consists of a police sergeant and five police officers and works alongside existing neighbourhood officers.

Not dedicated to a single ward or district, the team is able to place resources where they are needed most targeting specific issues which have been identified by neighbourhood policing.



## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

<b>Amsterdam</b>	2°C	<b>Madrid</b>	6°C
<b>Athens</b>	15°C	<b>New York</b>	4°C
<b>Barcelona</b>	10°C	<b>Paris</b>	3°C
<b>Beijing</b>	9°C	<b>Rome</b>	13°C
<b>Bombay</b>	30°C	<b>Sydney</b>	30°C
<b>Cape Town</b>	25°C	<b>Tenerife</b>	20°C
<b>Cardiff</b>	1°C	<b>Tokyo</b>	7°C
<b>Gibraltar</b>	12°C	<b>Vancouver</b>	2°C
<b>Hong Kong</b>	22°C	<b>Warsaw</b>	0°C
<b>Las Palmas</b>	21°C	<b>Wellington</b>	17°C

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		
<b>Ashford</b>	5°C	4°C	7°C	4°C	3°C	<b>Gravesend</b>	6°C	5°C	6°C	4°C	3°C
<b>Canterbury</b>	4°C	4°C	6°C	3°C	2°C	<b>Maidstone</b>	6°C	5°C	6°C	4°C	3°C
<b>Chatham</b>	5°C	4°C	7°C	5°C	3°C	<b>Ramsgate</b>	4°C	4°C	6°C	3°C	2°C
<b>Dartford</b>	6°C	5°C	6°C	4°C	3°C	<b>Rochester</b>	5°C	4°C	7°C	5°C	3°C
<b>Dover</b>	4°C	3°C	6°C	4°C	3°C	<b>Sevenoaks</b>	4°C	4°C	5°C	3°C	2°C
<b>Faversham</b>	5°C	4°C	7°C	5°C	3°C	<b>Sittingbourne</b>	5°C	4°C	7°C	5°C	3°C
<b>Folkestone</b>	4°C	3°C	6°C	4°C	3°C	<b>Tonbridge</b>	6°C	5°C	7°C	5°C	3°C
<b>Gillingham</b>	5°C	4°C	7°C	5°C	3°C	<b>Tun Wells</b>	6°C	5°C	7°C	5°C	3°C

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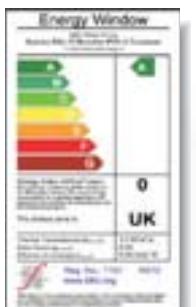
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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SARAH-JANE ADAMS



## Q & A

The 25-year-old fashion editor and web designer, a graduate of the Rochester campus of the University for the Creative Arts, spoke to **Anna White** about her career and what she has planned for the future

**Q** Can you tell us a little about yourself?

**A** I'm from Maidstone and currently a freelance fashion editor and journalist, contributing to a variety of sources, and I am a web designer providing high fashion sites to young creatives. I also own the teen-orientated Cause a Scene magazine, which has generated a global readership of thousands.

**Q** Have you always wanted to work in the fashion industry?

**A** Well I always wanted to be a writer, and while studying I found that fashion journalism was something I had a real affinity for. Combined with the desire to work for myself, I felt that the creative industries held a lot of opportunities for entrepreneurialism and was a lot more open to the possibilities of self-made success than a 9am to 5pm job.

**Q** How has taking a fashion promotion degree at the University for the Creative Arts helped you in your career?

**A** It definitely fuelled my interest in branding and PR, which has been invaluable in pitching myself and my company. The degree covered a wide array of topics and challenges, and that has had an impact on the way I work today, taking on multiple positions across a variety of fields and always willing to branch out into new areas. There was also an emphasis on independent learning, which is what running your own company is all about.

**Q** You offer work experience to fashion students at Rochester UCA, do you feel it's important to stay connected with your former university?

**A** I've had UCA students help me a few times as it's a great source of talent trained in PR, building up experience and seeing the day-to-day running of a brand is invaluable when you're studying, and hopefully that's what I've been able to offer.

**Q** Can you tell us about your work and websites?

**A** My personal website can be found at sarahjaneadams.com, detailing my resume and availability, while beautyliciousbling.com is the official site for my web design brand. I also founded causeascenemagazine.com, which holds the free ezine fusing high fashion with youth culture. I am also editor-in-chief of high-end fashion publication Flair Now, and a celebrity style columnist at Urban World. I'm always interested in new projects, and can be contacted directly at sarahjane@sarahjaneadams.com.

**Q** Tell us more about Cause a Scene.

**A** Cause a Scene really began as a more general fashion site called Fashion Central back in March 2007, which I launched when I was still at university. But through natural progression it turned into Cause a Scene, focusing on youth culture and street fashion. Cause a Scene is aimed at the digital genera-

tion who understand online celebrity, photography and trends.

**Q** I understand this has attracted national interest?

**A** I've been lucky enough to be picked up by the national press a couple of times, and to have become covered by some top fashion resources, as well as being approached to collaborate with and work for some high profile websites. This coverage is always invaluable in terms of generating interest in myself and my work and makes a welcome addition to my resume.

**Q** What would you say has been the highlight of your career so far?

**A** I honestly think I'm yet to achieve a single highlight as there are still so many things I want to do, and consider my career to be only just beginning; but to be in a position where my work is recognised and generating interest is so rewarding, and to know my success ultimately depends on me is liberating and motivating.

**Q** What is next for the future?

**A** In the immediate future I'm now looking to promote my web design services and continue to add strings to my bow; there are always new opportunities and avenues opening up so beyond that it's difficult to predict where things will take me long term, but right now I'm excited to find out.

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When the wood washed in from the sea ...  
Search 'wood'.



Julie Maddocks on saving money on holidays.  
Search 'crunch'.



RSPCA animal centre at Leybourne.  
Search 'animals'.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

[yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



**DONATION:** Demelza Hospice receives the cheque for £2,500 from the crew of HMS Kent, during the presentation they were also joined by two Lynx naval helicopters

# Navy helicopters drop in to give cash to hospice

NAVAL officers paid a flying visit to Demelza House – landing two Lynx helicopters at the children's hospice.

The crew of HMS Kent landed at the charity's Bobbing hospice last week, meeting with children, staff and volunteers before handing over a cheque for £2,500.

The members of 815 squadron from the Royal Navy frigate told Demelza staff how they had organised a number of events to raise the money, ranging from an acoustic night to climbing Mount Fuji.

Their colleagues then arrived in style, landing two 425 Lynx naval helicopters in the hospice's grounds.

Demelza's director of fund-raising James

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

Hanaway said the children had thoroughly enjoyed the crew's visit.

He said: "It was fantastic to welcome the crew of HMS Kent to Demelza and gave us the opportunity to show them where all their fund-raising efforts are put to work.

"The children were really excited to see the helicopters and a great day was had by all."

HMS Kent's Sub Lieutenant Ed Smith said his crew were overwhelmed by what they saw.

He said: "A few of my crew members have said how overwhelmed they were with the whole experience of the hospice and that it was lovely to see the money they raised going to such a good cause.

Demelza has been chosen as one of our charities for the life of the ship.

"HMS Kent was commissioned in 2000 and has a life expectancy of between 25 and 30 years so we're looking forward to a long relationship with Demelza."

Demelza provides hospice care for more than 570 children with life-limiting illnesses and their families across Kent, East Sussex and south London.

A care team at the eight-bedded Bobbing hospice provide respite, symptom control, end-of-life care and bereavement support.

More than 300 children and their families benefit from a wide range of facilities that include a multi-sensory room, soft play, jacuzzi, and the inclusion zone for young adults.

## Researchers find the beat of life with drumming

DRUMMING is being used as a tool to help people with mental illnesses, recovering drug addicts and autism sufferers.

Experts at the Sidney De Haan research centre in Folkestone believe certain parts of the rock 'n' roll lifestyle – namely the constant movement involved with playing percussion instruments – can help the body recover from injury and illness.

Musician Simon Lee works with a number of health groups across the county.

He said: "A new interest has developed in drumming, rhythm-making and the role it has in healthy communities, and there is strong evidence to suggest it may actually be a healing activity. Some have gone so far as to prove that time spent drumming can positively affect our immune systems, levels of stress and psychological well-being."

Recently Mr Lee has lent his expertise to the Trevor Gibbons mental health unit in Maidstone, as well as Medway Primary Care Trust. He said: "Drumming can energise or relax, foster a sense of playfulness or release anger and tension. It can also help in the conquering of social isolation and the building of positive relationships."

The Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health is part of Canterbury Christ Church University, and is situated at the University Centre Folkestone.

## Low tax increase

KENT County Council chiefs have proposed a 2.44 per cent council tax increase for the next financial year.

The figure is the lowest it has ever been, and 0.41 per cent lower than was originally put forward by the authority last month.

Members of KCC's ruling Tory cabinet agreed the increase at a meeting on Monday morning, with final approval due to be made by full council on February 19.

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# yourmaidstoneschools



## Kids get passport to best of Kent's top attractions

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YOUNGSTERS can get more out of the attractions of Kent with the free Passport to Learning.

Kent Children's University is offering primary school pupils the chance to take part in their new 2009 programme – Learning in the Wild.

The Kent County Council and Kent Adult Learning Services organised scheme has provided children with informal educational courses for more than a decade.

The new programme for 2009 involves pupils applying for the Passport to Learning, and presenting it at a number of top tourist attractions in the county to receive an activity book related to the venue.

When the child has completed the activity pack they will gain credits and have their passport stamped before leaving the attraction.

Each attraction has a number of credits allocated to it, depending on the size of the venue. On average it will take about an hour's research and work to earn a credit.

When the child has clocked up eight credits they can send in their passport in return for a Kent Children's University certificate.

Those with more than eight credits will be eligible for a National Children's University Certificate.

■ BY ANNA WHITE

KCC cabinet member for education Mark Dance said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to visit some of Kent's tourist attractions and learn more about the county.

"I am a big advocate of learning outside of school hours and the children's university is an excellent way of achieving this."

The organisation, which has been running since 1996, is similar to a university by allowing the children to choose what they want to study before taking part.

All of the projects take place across the county, out of school hours.

The programme is open to children of all ability levels, aged seven to 11-years-old, and parents are encouraged to accompany their children whilst taking part.

Standard entrance fees apply.

Attractions in the Maidstone area which have signed up to the new 2009 programme include Paddock Wood Hop Farm and The Museum of Kent Life at Sandling.

Others carefully selected venues include the Rare Breeds Centre at Ashford, Canterbury Cathedral, Dover Castle and Howletts Zoo, near Canterbury.

To find out more information or to find out other venues taking part, visit [www.thechildrensuniversity.co.uk/cukent](http://www.thechildrensuniversity.co.uk/cukent).



**LEARNING IS FUN:** Children enjoy feeding the lambs at the Museum of Kent Life, which is taking part in the scheme

### BREAK TIME

## Bringing in the New Year Chinese style

CHINESE culture was embraced at a Maidstone school last week to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

From Monday, January 26 for a week, all subjects at the New Line Learning Academy in Linton were taught with activities related to China and their culture.

Activities included bamboo dancing and other forms of dance, calligraphy, art and cookery.

To ensure the staff and students experienced the full effect of the culture they were also served Chinese food and jasmine tea.

The academy hosted an afternoon training day for Mandarin teachers from across Kent last Wednesday, which included head teachers looking to deliver Mandarin classes at their own schools.

From 4.30pm there was an open evening for parents and the community to go in and have a look.

Visitors were able to find out more about the teaching of Mandarin and enjoy elements of Chinese culture.

Students and staff ran stalls during the



**CELEBRATION:** Teacher of Mandarin, Annabel Parker, dressed in Chinese costume with students

evening, such as a Win a Wok competition, calligraphy and mask painting stalls, and Chinese goods for sale.

There was also a cultural performer in costume performing traditional dances.

To finish off the week of events on Friday everyone wore their own clothes, with prizes for the best dressed.

**SEND your schools news and pictures to [yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)**

# Helping heal the scars

FIVE years ago staff at Depaul UK opened their doors to a young girl who had severe problems with self-harming.

The 16-year-old, who had suffered years of abuse and spent time in psychiatric care, always made sure her body was covered up to hide the brutal scars she had caused over the years.

Volunteers and staff at Depaul UK, a hostel which cares for homeless young people, worked closely with the teenager and two years later she walked out of the hostel wearing a sleeveless top and skirt, unafraid to show off her body.

She is now in a stable relationship with a two-year-old son.

Jacky Levy, project manager at the hostel, said this success story is one of many out of the hundreds of young people they have cared for over the years.

She said: "We help those aged between 16 to 21-years-old, from all walks of life and with diverse problems.

"We get people who have just come out of care or prison, most of which have had very difficult lives.

"We give them space, show them that we like them and develop relationships. One of the major things we do is bring humour into their lives."

Ms Levy joined the Gravesend branch of Depaul UK six years ago. She said self-harm is a common occurrence with their residents.

"Sometimes they keep it a secret, sometimes they tell us, but one of the things we must do is make sure they harm in a safe way.

"If we are aware then we can make sure they don't use dirty

knives and razors as well as working towards helping them stop.

"A lot of them do it as a release as nothing else seems to help.

"Some of them are so damaged they don't feel emotions and they do it as a way to remind themselves they exist. It makes them feel alive somehow – it's very sad."

One resident is Diane. She came to one of Depaul UK's hostels aged 18 after leaving her family and ending up homeless.

She suffered depression and would frequently self-harm, but the organisation helped her build her confidence and get her a voluntary placement at a local vets.

## Evicted

Diane is unable to live independently, but has severely reduced her self-harming.

Ms Levy said: "Everyone we have helped, even those we have had to evict, have kept in contact.

"We develop relationships which makes them realise they are liked.

"We have a very high success rate here."

Depaul UK uses separate care plans geared towards each individual, which includes counselling and building relationships.

The not-for-profit organisation also works closely with local authorities who help rehouse residents.

As part of their work, the national organisation has teamed up with youth mental health charity 42nd Street and online communications charity YouthNet, to provide an online service as well.

A national inquiry found that one in 15 young people in the UK are currently self-harming and despite it previously being a taboo

A recent report claims one in 15 young people are self-harming – inflicting physical injuries on themselves. **Marijke Cox** speaks to one Kent group which is helping break the damaging cycle



subject, more and more people want help.

Fiona Dawe, Chief Executive of YouthNet, said: "Never before has there been such a comprehensive offering of self-harm advice and information, combined with peer-to-peer support, available online.

"By working directly with people affected by the issue, we have been able to create fantastic visual, audio and written content which is relevant, interesting and inclusive – allowing us to get help for young people how they want it, when they need it."

For more information visit [www.TheSite.org/selfharm](http://www.TheSite.org/selfharm).

## Talking to dispel cancer 'stigma'

A SURGEON is urging people to be "loud and proud" to raise awareness of the UK's second deadliest form of cancer – bowel cancer.

The call to action comes as the county prepares to mark Beating Bowel Cancer's annual Be Loud campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the symptoms.

The campaign encourages people to wear their loudest and most colourful clothes and talk openly about bowel cancer and its symptoms.



William Garrett (pictured above), consultant surgeon, clinical lead for bowel cancer screening at the NHS Foundation Trust, and the Strategic Health Authority's advisor for bowel cancer screening in Kent, said: "Although bowel cancer is the second most deadly form of cancer, it is actually one of the most curable if caught in time."

"The most common symptoms are changes in your bowel habits, bleeding or colicky abdominal pains.

"People often find its symptoms embarrassing, but by talking openly and honestly we can remove the stigma and enable more people to access the treatment they need, without feeling embarrassed or ashamed."

## New bike rangers

CYCLE routes across Kent are to be improved through a partnership to help in their upkeep.

Kent County Council and sustainable charity Sustrans will recruit up to 40 volunteer rangers.

They will maintain the growing network of cycle routes across Kent in addition to boosting the number of people taking to two wheels.

For more details go online to [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk), following the link to 'Support Sustrans'.

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CELEBRATE the launch of Valkyrie, the latest big screen hit starring Tom Cruise, with your own goodie bag from the film.

Based on a stunning true story, Tom Cruise stars as Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg.

Valkyrie is a chronicle of the daring and ingenious plot to eliminate one of the most evil tyrants the world has ever known.

A proud military man, Colonel Stauffenberg is a loyal officer who loves his country but has been forced to watch with horror as the rise of Hitler has led to the events of World War II. He has continued his military service, all the while hoping someone will find a way to stop Hitler before Europe and Germany are destroyed.

Realising time is running out, Stauffenberg decides he must take action himself, and in 1942, on his

own initiative, attempts to persuade senior commanders in the East to confront and overthrow Hitler.

Then in 1943, while recovering from injuries suffered in combat, Stauffenberg joins forces with the long-existing civilian anti-Hitler conspiracy, a group of men hidden inside the highest reaches of power.

### The plan

Armed with a cunning strategy to use Hitler's own emergency plan to stabilise the government in the event of his demise – Operation Valkyrie – and turn that plan on its head to remove those in power and cripple Hitler's regime, these men plot to assassinate the dictator and overthrow his Nazi government.

With everything in place, and with the future of the world, the fate of millions, and the lives of his wife and children hanging in the balance, Stauffenberg is thrust from being one of many who oppose Hitler to being

the one who must kill Hitler himself.

The film was shot in Germany at locations where many of the actual events occurred, including the historic Bendlerblock.

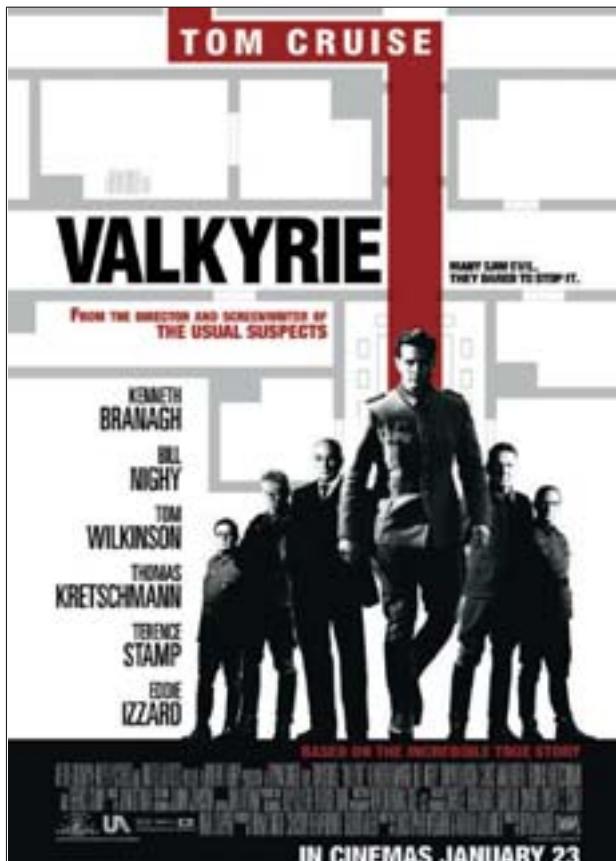
KOS Media has teamed up with 20th Century Fox Films to offer five lucky readers the chance to win a Valkyrie goodie bag containing a journal, polo shirt and cap.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Valkyrie Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is February 18, 2009.

### Question: Which famous actor plays Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg in Valkyrie?

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# yourmaidstoneblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Maidstone...

## The eternal mystery of who sends those pointless emails

SPAM email. What, may I ask, is the point?

Don't get me wrong. I know it's nothing new. And I know the idea, at least originally, was to get the gullible to believe whatever message they conveyed and end up parting with cash.

Dupe just ten people out of 10,000 and potentially there's a tidy sum to be had for a marketing method that costs you nothing but a bit of time and an email account.

But today's spam seem to sign-up to a breed of complete and utter pointlessness previously unseen.

Take the recent batch I have been receiving. Firstly, they appear to be sent by none other than me.

I would be the first to admit I have done some damn silly things in my life, but wasting my own time writing bizarre emails to myself is not yet one of them.

So, from the start, I know this is a bit of email which must go straight into the bin. It

must not pass go. It must not get my £200.

But, let's assume I, for reasons unknown, am intrigued by what I might be emailing to myself.

Well the next stumbling block is not far away. It's in the subject line to be precise.

Any email sent to me which suggests intimate video footage of me has been found by my neighbour is going to make me smell a rat, to be honest. What's more I find it unlikely Barack Obama will indeed be emailing me direct with a message. Then there are the ones telling me I must rush to enter all my personal banking details as someone has been trying to hack into my Lloyds or Abbey bank account. Quite aside from the fact I'm not a customer of either, I was not born yesterday.

Yet they are nothing compared to the vast bulk of emails which manage to sidestep the clearly rubbish spam filter we have at work and go to great lengths to tell me that size is, despite speculation to the contrary – which I might add I have clung to all my life – everything.

Now I don't know quite who is ever going to

fall for these things. I don't know who will receive an email, unsolicited and apparently from their own account, and think 'hey, these guys seem to have a responsible attitude to business. Heck, let me get my credit card out and I'll get me some of those magic pills'. They may exist, I grant you, but I can't see it.

And part of me thinks if you're that stupid you probably deserve your account to be drained by a dodgy bloke in Moscow.

So let me just add my voice to this whole debate. Ignore spam emails. Delete them, don't even open them. NEVER respond to them – not even to 'unsubscribe' or to complain. And if they appear to come from your own address fret not – they haven't. But never stop forwarding the more amusing ones on size and shape to your colleagues. That remains a joke which will never grow old.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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# yourletters

## TALK TIME

### VERITY ROBERTS

The student from Loose talks about the negatives and positives of her daily commute to London from the county town.



#### Tell us about yourself?

I am 22, I was born in South Africa but moved to England four months later to live in Maidstone. I lived in Downwood for many years but now live in Loose. I am now studying a postgraduate degree in radiotherapy at London South Bank University.

#### How do you find the commute to London?

Commuting every weekday is not always a pleasant journey – travelling from Maidstone East Station to London can be stressful when the trains are subjected to diversions or delayed due to signal failure.

However, procedures are in place to ensure you arrive at your destination, even if this is later than expected. Seating is not an issue in the mornings as this is probably the first major station stop.

#### What are your thoughts on Maidstone East station?

The time schedules and platform information is not always available and to find out information a member of staff needs to be asked, which is not acceptable as on arrival at the station information on platforms and departure should be clearly visible.

Parking is also too expensive – even though cash back is received when purchasing your ticket this is not always made known.

#### How does Maidstone East compare to a major London train station?

Travelling out of London is different, notices of platforms and departure times can clearly be seen, however, at peak times a seat is not always available, and as the prices are so high to pay to stand is not acceptable.

## YOUR LETTERS



### We just want to have the choice

I am not in the UK but writing this email message from Afghanistan, where I work as a security consultant.

I just want to add my opinion to Joanna Lumley's comments about Gurkha rights.

What she has said is true.

There are not many now who may migrate to the UK due to high living standards and high taxation.

I have never thought of settling in the UK and I am sure many will not go to the UK and the number compared to other nationals is very small.

The Gurkhas deserve the right to be given the choice.

**John Gurung, from Pokhara in Nepal, comment posted on web story at [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk).**

### We should get rid of county council

The news Kent County Council has a number of people on its staff earning over £50,000 a year should come as no surprise.

This is a body which seems to



## COMMENT ONLINE TOO

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have no idea how to manage its finances – witness the fiasco of the £50 million lost in the Icelandic banking collapse.

Why people continue to have confidence in KCC remains a mystery and I for one feel this

redundant body could be got rid of – along with all the county councils in the UK.

I accept large cities need some form of organisation at the top – but rural parts of the UK do not. The work would then be under-

taken by local district councils – far more in tune with the needs of residents and able to supply services tailored to a specific area with its problems always to the fore in the minds of officials.

In Kent what have Romney Marsh and Chatham got in common? Or Margate and Tunbridge Wells, or Pluckley and Northfleet? The list could go on and on.

Representation by local councils would not only be more accountable – at one stroke it would wipe out a costly tier of local government, saving millions upon millions each year.

**Brian Hamilton from Maidstone, by email**



### John Noakes was the best of them

I was interested to read the blogger's views on children's TV presenters coming to untimely ends in last week's paper.

When I was growing up Blue Peter's John Noakes was the main man of television and the best thing on by far.

Apparently he is still going strong and fronting up the odd series – but nothing could be better than his freefall parachute jumping and general action man antics.

Children's TV presenters all

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come up short when measured against the great Noakes

Alan Fremantle,  
by email.



## Tourists will be silver lining of recession

I suppose one benefit the total mismanagement of the economy by Gordon Brown is the low value of the pound should attract more tourists to Britain.

So isn't it about time we in Kent started to emphasise what it is we have to offer – great countryside, lovely villages, historic towns and cathedrals and castles galore?

Has anyone thought of taking out advertising space abroad – a few posters at railway stations in France and Germany or in quality newspapers on the continent? There are a huge number of posters advertising destinations in the USA around the capital.

With America's interest in history and culture surely Kent could think about launching a publicity drive Stateside as well.

If there is a silver lining to the current economic woes we are suffering we should try and find it.

Emma Parsons  
By email

## Cancer prescription campaign success

I would like to thank all of your readers who helped Macmillan Cancer Support campaign for free prescription charges for cancer patients. We simply could not have achieved this without your help.

After three years pushing, we are delighted the Government has listened to us and abolished prescription charges for cancer patients from April 1 this year.

Cancer not only threatens your life, but can make you poor, and now free prescriptions will transform the lives of thousands living with cancer who were struggling to pay for drugs. All cancer patients are now entitled to apply for a five-year exemption certificate, which will entitle them to all their NHS pre-

scriptions free of charge, not just those relating to cancer.

To get an application visit your GP or oncology clinic. And if you have already paid for a pre-payment certificate, you can get a refund for the months after April. For more details see [www.dh.gov.uk/helpwithhealth](http://www.dh.gov.uk/helpwithhealth) costs or call 0845 6101112.

Stephen Richards, regional director  
London, Anglia & South East for  
Macmillan Cancer Support, by email.

## England squad are missing out on talent

What a shame it is Kent's Joe Denly is not part of the England squad in action in the West Indies at the moment.

Good wickets and average bowling are the ideal opportunities for a young player who undoubtedly has a promising future in the game.

It would also have been excellent practice for him in the run up to the season back home.

Phil Cousins,  
from West Malling, by email.



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# An evening with Clive

Presenter came to the top from Down Under

## CLIVE JAMES

Saturday, February 21  
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



AUSTRALIA'S finest export visits Kent this month to talk about his fascinating career as a writer, broadcaster and raconteur.

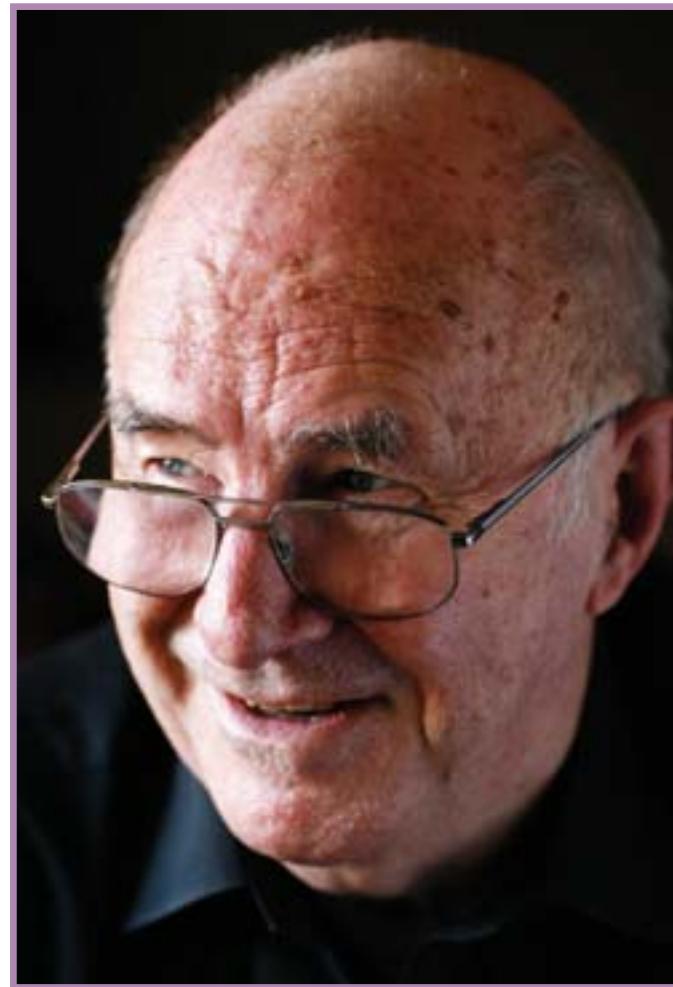
Clive James In The Evening will give fans the chance to meet the man who has become a British institution, despite being born in Sydney. Last year he was awarded the George Orwell Special Prize for lifetime achievement in journalism and broadcasting, a reflection of his long and varied career. He is sure to have many entertaining stories to tell about his life in the media and literary world.

Born in 1939, James attended Sydney Technical High School and Sydney University, where he acted as literary editor of the student newspaper Honi Soit and director of the annual Union Revue. After leaving university he spent a year working on the Sydney Morning Herald, before setting sail for England in 1961.

After three years living a 'would-be bohemian existence' in London, he went to Cambridge University where his journalistic and theatrical talents continued to shine. As well as becoming president of the famous Footlights theatre group, James wrote for all the undergraduate periodicals and his work began to appear in publications like the Listener, the New Statesman and the Review.

His lengthy article about Edmund Wilson, published anonymously in the Times Literary Supplement, attracted the praise of a number of readers, including author Graham Greene, something which sparked interest in James' identity.

He went on to become a television reviewer for the Observer and, believing that a cultural commentator must be as immersed in their subject as possible, he became a TV presenter himself. James pioneered the 'postcard' format of travel programmes, still in syndication all over the world. He is also a successful fiction author, while his first autobiographical book - *Unreliable*



**INTERESTING:** Clive James has had a fascinating and varied media career

Memoirs, first published in 1979 - has been reprinted more than 60 times.

Despite becoming a well-loved media personality, he continued to devote time to his literary pursuits as a critic, author and poet. His talents even extend to music, having written lyrics for singer and musician Pete Atkin in the 1970s. They collaborated on six commercially released albums and the pair took a hit two-man show to the Edinburgh Fringe in 2001, followed by tours of Britain, Australia and Hong Kong.

Since retiring from mainstream television, he has become involved with new media and internet enterprises. But he continues to write books, delight readers with his memoirs and entertain audiences with his fascinating anecdotes.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £16. At the time of writing tickets were selling fast, so book soon to avoid disappointment. Call 01227 769075 or book at [www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk](http://www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk).

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with

**JANE CONNOLLY**Email [jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk)**LD FRAZIER**

Saturday, February 7

St Nicholas Church, Maidstone

AMERICAN gospel singer LD Frazier will perform in Maidstone this weekend.

Frazier has toured the world to delight audiences with his voice and music, as well as leading gospel workshops and making recordings. He has also appeared on television and in films, including *Cotton Comes To Harlem* and *Bette Midler's 1979 film The Rose*.

Frazier was born in Cleveland and grew up in Buffalo and Los Angeles. After moving to Detroit, he sang with the harmony group Richard Green's Acapells. It was in 1974 that he decided to devote his life to gospel singing and since then he has performed all



over the world, including the UK.

Tracing the evolution of gospel music, his repertoire includes early spirituals from the late 1700s, Jubilee gospel associated with the emancipation of the 19th century and the gospel sounds of the 20th century.

There will be a workshop from 4pm to 5pm, followed by the concert at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8 for each event or £12 for admission to both the workshop and the concert. The event is being held in aid of the church funds. To book tickets call 01622 751243.

**JIVE TALKIN' - THE BEE GEES STORY**

Saturday, February 7

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone

BEE Gees fans will be getting Saturday night fever at the news a top tribute band is coming to town.

Jive Talkin' - The Bee Gees Story features all the hits as it covers the band's career in chronological order.

Trace their progress from early 60s classics such as *Massachusetts* and *Words*, to 70s dance floor smashes like *Stayin' Alive* and *Night Fever*, right up to the pop hits of the 80s and 90s.

The trio is made up of brothers Darren and Gary Simmons, along with Jarrod Loughlin. They have 20 years' experience in the business and have even performed with the real Bee Gees. Special guest Sarah

Eden-Winn also appears to perform songs written by the Bee Gees for other artists.

Last year the group attracted the attention of Las Vegas billionaire Steve Winn who, on the recommendation of Barry Gibb, flew over to the UK just to watch the show.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £15/£14. To book call 01622 758611 or visit [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk).

**GRETA, STELLA AND SUNNIVA BONDESSON**

Monday, February 9

Zebra Bar, Maidstone

THREE Swedish sisters give their explosive take on Americana music at *Maverick@Zebra* next week.

Greta, Stella and Sunniva Bondesson have moved on from former band Slaptones, with their dad on drums, to form the exciting Baskery.

The trio give Americana, roots and old-time swing a modern makeover, describing their music as 'high voltage' and using phrases like 'killbilly', 'banjo punk' and 'mud-country'.

Baskery combine a love of old-time country, rockabilly, Johnny Cash and the Carter Family with a punk attitude. They earned rave reviews when opening on Seth Lakeman's tour and are sure to bring the house down here.

Also appearing is Henry Priestman, a founding member and the main writer for The Christians. During the 80s and 90s, the band sold three million albums on the Island Records label and Priestman has now been signed to the label again. He recently released his first solo album, *Chronicles of Modern Life*.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £14/£12. To book call 01622 744481.

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**MAIDSTONE LEISURE****Talented cellist to play with town's orchestra**

OUTSTANDING cellist Guy Johnston returns to perform with the Maidstone Symphony Orchestra.

The award-winning young musician will perform Elgar's well-loved Cello Concerto. The concert at Mote Hall in Maidstone Leisure Centre is at 7.30pm on Saturday. Tickets are £12 to £21 or £5 for students, call 01622 736392 or 0845 155277 or visit [www.mso.org.uk](http://www.mso.org.uk).

**Youngsters aim to jazz up a Sunday evening**

ADMIRE some of the county's finest young musicians when the Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra performs this weekend.

They play a mix of swing, fusion and funk that is bound to get audiences tapping their feet.

The concert will be at the Hazlitt Theatre, at 7.30pm on Sunday. Tickets cost £10/£8/£6, call 01622 758611 or visit [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk).

**Finely crafted works go on display in the case**

THE work of local artists and designers can be seen at Maidstone Craft Case.

Craft Case gives people the chance to admire a wide range of contemporary and applied arts. The exhibitions of paintings, frescoes, sculpture, glass, ceramics, jewellery, wood and much more can be seen in the box office at the Hazlitt Arts Centre. All work is available to buy from the box office.

**Calling all twitchers, trust needs your help**

BIRDWATCHERS are being asked to help the British Trust for Ornithology.

Anyone who has access to a garden and can identify common garden birds is invited to contribute to the trust's research. They need volunteers to take part in its year-round Garden BirdWatch survey, helping to monitor bird populations in a systematic way. For details call 01842 750050 or email [gbw@bto.org](mailto:gbw@bto.org).

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**Hurry, this grreat offer is only available Sat 7th & Sun 8th February.**

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**MATALAN**

Double buckled platforms, price £16

**MAIDSTONE SHOPPING****Make a Valentine's date at Bluewater this year**

LOVE is in the air at Bluewater this month with plenty of deals and promotions to create the perfect Valentine's Day.

The With Love from Bluewater promotion features various ideas for the most romantic day of the year including where to wine and dine your date, treating them to the cinema and which gifts to buy.

If you are not too sure what to buy your Valentine why not let them choose themselves with the Bluewater GiftCard, which is available in any value from £5 to £500. To pick one up visit any one of the concierge desks, who also have free Valentine's Gift Guides to hand out.

But if you have managed to choose something, from February 7 to 14 there will be a gift-wrapping service for your Valentine's Day presents. Visit the community based project Groundworks on the Guildhall to have your gifts professionally wrapped from £1.95.

For the date itself, some of Bluewater's 50 bars and restaurants are offering themed exclusive offers on February 14.

Carluccio's are offering any couple dining on two courses a free bottle of sparkling Prosecco Rose Ruggeri, normally priced at £17.95.

Seafood and Grill restaurant Loch Fyne have a special Valentine's Day menu of three courses for £45 per person, including a glass of Champagne on arrival. Or visit tapas restaurant La Tasca for the chance to win a romantic trip to Barcelona.

To kick-start or finish off the date take your loved one to the on-site cinema and treat them to a Showcase Cinema Gift Box. The perfect gift box for film lovers is priced at £24.99 and includes two adult cinema tickets, two regular drinks and one large popcorn.

Bluewater, one of Europe's leading retail and leisure destinations, has 330 stores, 13,000 free car parking spaces, Showcase cinema, 50 bars and restaurants and The Molton Brown day spa.

**Shopaholics, Chequers out this great prize**

WIN a luxury holiday to New York by visiting The Mall Chequers.

From now until February 14 shoppers can fill in a form at the mall's Ask Me Point and answer Who is the female star in the film Confessions of a Shopaholic? Prize includes flights, accommodation for three nights, a personal shopping experience at Bloomingdales, and US \$300 spending money. Runners-up will win a private screening of the film for 20 friends. Also enter at [www.themall.co.uk](http://www.themall.co.uk).

**Take a look at this fab offer from Specsavers**

KEEP an eye out for Specsavers' two pairs of glasses for £75 offer.

The optical chain has a range of stylish specs included in the offer at the Maidstone High Street store.

You can have standard PENTAX single vision lenses in both pairs and now also a free scratch-resistant treatment on all lenses.

Varifocal, bifocal and other single vision lenses are also available in the offer – you just pay for the lenses in your first pair.

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## YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

### THE KRYPTON FACTOR

ITV1, 7.30pm, Thursday

TV channels love re-vamping an old idea.

From Family Fortunes to Bullseye, Blockbusters to Gladiators, no former show of note is safe.

All we need is Bob's Full House to get the makeover treatment and we'll have ourselves a, er, full house.

Some would say there's no harm in bringing back a winner while others would point to a dearth of new ideas and TV executives taking the easy option.

With that in mind let's turn the focus on The Krypton Factor, back after a decade in the wilderness.

I think it's safe to say this is the only quiz show to be inspired by Superman's home planet and has been rebooted for midweek viewers.

Back in the 70s, 80s and early 90s this programme reminded us all we were just mere mortals, lucky to be walking on the same ground as Steve the bookseller from Felixstowe.

He could land a simulated jumbo jet in high winds, read a clock face backwards, and spot the five continuity errors in two short pieces of otherwise identical film.

We couldn't, we were rubbish.

There really was nothing quite like curling up on the warm sofa as an accountant, a nurse, a teacher and a train driver stormed their way down an assault course that would make the Man of Steel need a nice cup of tea and a sit down upon completion.

How we would chuckle as Marie, the osteopath from Corby, got stuck in the giant cargo net, blowing her chances of upping her Krypton Factor past single digits.



**NOT THE RIGHT FACTOR:** Ben Shepherd is just too glossy to preside over the show

With Gordon Burns, owner of the nation's favourite side-parting, sat presiding over matters like a cross between a maths teacher and Bob Holness, for half an hour a week, all seemed right with the world.

Age has not been kind to the format though and it all seems a bit absurd now.

The loveable naughtiness has been ironed out and things run suspiciously smoothly.

The puzzles seem somehow harder too, as if no one is supposed to get them right let alone the audience.

One of the main problems – aside from that it isn't 1988 anymore – is host Ben Shepherd, who seems far too wet and glossy to be in control of such important matters.

Even more scandalous is his shocking lack of a side-parting.

## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT

### AQUARIUS

(Jan 21-Feb 19) ATTENDING to your own needs should be your first order of business. It's been too long since you took a break for pleasure. Schedule a relaxing trip. Looking at a beautiful vista will prompt you to make bold plans. Stop telling yourself that you're too old to take a chance.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

### TAURUS

(Apr 21-May 21) STAND up for yourself. By confronting an abusive authority figure, your self esteem will soar. It's also possible your tormentor will get their marching orders. If the situation is intolerable, look for a new job. You could find one more suited to you. You do best working with the public.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

### LEO

(Jul 24-Aug 23) DEVOTING more time to your personal life becomes possible, reach out to your best friend, workmates, or a romantic partner. If you are on your own, you could form a wonderful partnership. Your companion was probably born in a foreign country but is much closer than you think.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

### SCORPIO

(Oct 24-Nov 22) YOU could get a sudden chance to buy your dream home this week. Be ready to take action when exciting news reaches your ears. A generous relative could help with the down payment if you're short of cash. Alternately, you may be adding a new member to your household.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

### PISCES

(Feb 20-Mar 20) EXAMINING your subconscious thoughts will result in a breakthrough. It's time to confront that inner critic of yours. You've been given tremendous gifts. By taking ownership of these talents, you'll be able to realise a dream. Write down your dreams as soon as you wake up.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

### GEMINI

(May 22-Jun 22) YOUR beliefs will go through a change. The ideas you were brought up with may not have any relevance to your life. Explore different beliefs. Don't worry about becoming a zealot. An open minded person like you isn't likely to become a drone or bigot.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

### VIRGO

(Aug 24-Sep 23) A NEW fitness regimen will yield results. This is the best week of the year to whip your body in shape. Be sure to do plenty of stretching before working out. If you're unsure how to proceed, get help from a trainer. Your coach can also help you follow a better diet.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23-Dec 22) A LEARNING opportunity could land in your lap. This will be a great way to expand your horizons and income. If you've ever wanted to write a book, this is a good week to begin. Don't worry about whether this project will make money or not. Just have fun with it!

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

### ARIES

(Mar 21-Apr 19) A NEW kind of social network is opening up. Surrounding yourself with educated people will make you hungry for adventure. Ask friends whenever you want to take a risk. They will give valuable advice and assistance. It may be necessary to ask your boss for time off.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

### CANCER

(Jun 23-Jul 23) CONFRONTING taboos about sex and religion will be liberating. A sensual person like you needs to explore your physical desires without feeling embarrassed. If you're single, you could meet someone special at a computer class, electronics store, or humanitarian organisation.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

### LIBRA

(Sep 24-Oct 23) EXPRESSING your creative side will lift you out of the doldrums. Lately, you've been saddled with serious responsibilities. Now you can enjoy more pleasurable activities. If you're unsure how to fill your time, think back to a hobby that gave you joy as a youngster.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

### CAPRICORN

(Dec 22-Jan 20) SET firm boundaries this week. By making it clear you're not a soft mark, these opportunists will beat a hasty retreat from your door. A manipulative woman may accuse you of being selfish. People will see you were wise to stand firm against this lady's pleas for help.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

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HERO WORSHIP: Eddy Temple Morris will be at Spank!

## LINE UP

Dubbed Out - Saturday, February 21  
 Ed Rush • DJ Dies • Trufix • Chazza Dub • DJ Depth  
 Doors open: 10pm-4am  
 Entry: £6 (£5 NUS) before midnight or £7 (£6 NUS) after

The Scene - Saturday, February 28  
 Plugs (live and DJ set) • Brassica • Twisted DJs  
 Doors open: 9pm-3am  
 Entry £6 (£5 NUS)

Spank! - Saturday, March 7  
 One Man Party (aka Steve from Soulwax) • Eddy Temple Morris • Twisted DJs • Big Trouble DJs  
 Doors open: 9pm - 4am  
 Entry £7 (£6 NUS) before midnight £8 (£7 NUS) after

What the Fuss? - Saturday, March 14  
 The Futureheads (DJ set) • Russ Tannen • Fuss DJs  
 • Mr. P  
 Doors open 10pm - 4am  
 Entry: £6 (£5 NUS)

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

AN all encompassing club night is set to launch later this month – offering everything from dubstep and drum 'n' bass to rock and rave.

The 666 night will run weekly at The Loft in Maidstone, with the opening night taking place on Saturday, February 21.

The beauty of the club night – apart from sharing its name with the number of the beast – is its decision to dedicate each Saturday night of the month to a different genre.

The monthly rotation sees Spank! take control on the first Saturday of each month, with nothing but 'indie dance, electro, disco, fidget and rave' being played.

The following week, What the Fuss?, is for indie rockers, with resident DJs offering up a host of alternative anthems through the night.

Dubbed Out is next in line on the third Saturday of the month, playing, as the name suggests, dubstep, hip hop, bassline and drum 'n' bass.

Each month will be brought to a close by The Scene, a night dedicated to staging the biggest breakthrough bands who are tipped to make it big this year.

A 666 spokesman said he couldn't wait for



HOUNDS: The Futureheads are lined up to do a DJ set during What the Fuss? on Saturday, March 14

the launch party. He said: "We're putting on a weekly club night, every Saturday slap bang in the middle of Kent for anyone and everyone.

"Each Saturday 666 will be presenting a different style of club night to cater for everyone's needs and to keep us on our toes.

"We can't wait to get started."

"We've already got a number of major UK and international bands and DJs lined up to come to the county."

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**BIG NAME:** The Coral ask Who's Gonna Find Me when they play Canterbury



**GOOD SOUND:** The Ether showcase local talent Tortilla Army



## TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

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- 2 Luke Jackson - 18/2 Live at The Barge, Gillingham
- 3 Los Salvadores - 6/3 The Pig, Hastings
- 4 Shycho and The Boys - 27/3
- The Westcoast Bar, Margate
- 5 Euston - 13/4 Hole In The Roof, Deal

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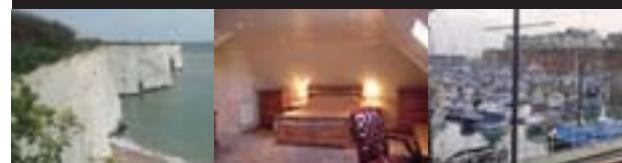
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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Rent goes down as opportunities go up

A DECREASE in the numbers of foreign nationals working in the UK and more "accidental" landlords are causing rents to fall, according to recent figures.

Analysts say this is great for tenants – but not for the small number of buy-to-let investors who took on large debts to build a portfolio.

Increasingly a survey shows their investments are in the hands of receivers. UHY Hacker Young, the accountancy group, said this week that it is handling an increasing number of buy-to-let portfolios – about half had been privately owned.

Spareroom.co.uk the flatshare website, blames the recent fall in rents on decreasing numbers of overseas workers seeking accommodation in the UK.

It says they have been deterred by the slump in sterling and the deteriorating job market and adds that companies are moving employees around the country less – labour mobility is a key driver of the rental market.

Other research out last week, this time from the Association of Residential Letting Agents shows that accidental landlords – would-be sellers who cannot find buyers and are forced to let their property – are increasing the supply of rental properties, especially family homes. Arla's average time a property stands empty is up from 3.4 weeks to 3.8 weeks.

### Improved figures are not a sign of recovery

THE number of new mortgages for house buyers approved by the UK's banks fell by 52 per cent in 2008.

Industry figures indicate the number of mortgages approved for house purchase then rose in December from November's record low. Even so, they are barely half the level they were a year ago. The British Bankers' Association reported the number of approvals rose from 17,339 in November to 22,051 last month, but were 47 per cent down on December 2007.

The increase should not be seen as a real recovery in lending. David Dooks of the BBA considers it is more likely to reflect delayed activity from November.

He said the banks approved less than half the 2007 number of loans for house purchase, reflecting falling demand from households facing greater economic uncertainty and double-digit falls in house prices over the year, which led to a wait-and-see mentality.



ENCOURAGING BUILDING: Housing Minister Margaret Beckett aims to keep the construction industry going by making changes to social housing rental income

# Social housing to keep construction moving

LOCAL authorities may soon have greater freedom to build more homes if plans currently under examination get the go ahead.

Under the proposals announced by Housing Minister Margaret Beckett, councils would be able to keep all the rental income from any homes they build, as well as keep the receipts from any of those homes which are later sold through right-to-buy.

The extra money could free councils to invest in the building of more council houses.

Currently, local authorities only build a few hundred council homes a year, with the majority of new social homes built by registered social landlords and housing associations.

The consultation proposals would seek to boost this building rate by removing some of

■ BY NICK AMES

the financial barriers stopping councils from constructing new properties and increasing their housing stock.

Ms Beckett said: "We are determined to help keep house building going in the current climate, as the long term need for more homes is not going to disappear."

"These new freedoms will encourage councils to play a bigger role in driving forward the delivery of new affordable homes for families in housing need."

The Government recently announced it would invite councils to bid for a share of the capital grant given to social landlords to subsidise the cost of new housing.

The new financial rules will make it possible for councils to compete for this funding along

side other providers of social housing.

James Rowlands, spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, has welcomed the proposal.

He said: "With the number of homes built in 2009 likely to fall below 80,000, any measures that can boost housing supply are welcome."

"Action must be taken as quickly as possible to have an impact on the market in the short term and local authorities should work in partnership with housing associations and private developers to ensure this happens."

"Many local authorities do not have recent experience of building homes and questions about their ability to deliver a development programme must also be addressed."

"This is one step towards maintaining a basic level of house building and retaining skilled workers in the industry."

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**EAST FARLEIGH £139,950**

An end of terraced two bedroom cottage with parking to the rear. Other benefits include gas central heating, double glazing.

**KINGFISHER MEADOW O100 £175,000**

A first floor two bedroom apartment. This home has two double bedrooms, living room with doors to the balcony.

**KINGFISHER MEADOW £87,500**

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**LACOCK GARDENS £199,950**

A three bedroom modern family home. There are two reception rooms, downstairs cloakroom, 13'4 kitchen breakfast room and master bedroom

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A four bedroom detached home. This property benefits from a re-fitted kitchen and has an adjoining utility room.

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**AYLESFORD £209,950**

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Located in the village of Barming, this two bedroom terraced cottage with approximately 60' rear garden backing onto farmland.

**PUBLIC NOTICE****PROPERTY ADDRESS:**

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We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £132,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH SQUARE O100 £159,995**

A three bedroom family home with gas central heating and double glazing. Other benefits include a double glazed conservatory.

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**BREWER STREET £125,000**

A super two double bedroom first/second floor maisonette with a 15' bay fronted living room, a re-fitted kitchen and gas central heating. The property is located within the town centre making this ideal for a rail commuter. An internal viewing is highly recommended.

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**SENACRE LANE £175,000**

A three bedroom semi detached home. This property has double glazing, gas central heating, two reception rooms.

**PENENDEN HEATH O100 £375,000**

A four bedroom detached home, three reception rooms and a kitchen/breakfast room. Other benefits include a cloakroom.

**AYLESFORD £395,000**

The accommodation includes a master bedroom with ensuite shower room and dressing area and three further double bedrooms.

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**SUTTON HEIGHTS £179,995**

There is a master bedroom with ensuite bathroom and two further double bedrooms. The finish is impressive i.e. highly polished floors to bathrooms.

**LANGLEY £165,000**

A two bedroom home includes a re-fitted kitchen/dining room and two double bedrooms together with gas central heating and double glazing.

**PUBLIC NOTICE****PROPERTY ADDRESS:**

98 UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14

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**UPPER FANT ROAD O100 £200,000**

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**WILLINGTON STREET £195,000**

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**Sandling £355,000**  
5 bedroom detached house, 2 bathrooms, lounge/diner, family room, garden, no chain.

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**Weavering £350,000**  
3 bedroom detached bungalow, DG, impressive lounge, garage, driveway.

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**Allington £310,000**  
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**Weavering £299,950**  
4 bedroom detached, cloakroom, two en-suites, GFCH, UPVC DG, garden, garage.

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**Bearsted £295,000**  
4 bedroom detached, 2 receptions, cloakroom, en-suite, utility room, garage, driveway.

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**Detling £275,000**  
3 bedroom detached bungalow, good sized rear garden, garage and driveway, no chain.

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**Vinters Park £250,000**  
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**Weavering £239,995**  
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**Weavering £239,995**  
Three bedroom semi-detached house, DG, GCH, conservatory, no chain.

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**Coxheath £235,000**  
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**Kerry Hill Way £225,000**  
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**Sandling OIEO £215,000**  
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**Hampshire Drive £195,000**  
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**West Malling £139,950**  
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**Buckland Hill OIEO £105,000**  
One bedroom flat, UPVC DG, modern kitchen & bathroom, communal parking, garden.

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Maidstone Branch



Connells

MAIDSTONE £625pcm	GROVE GREEN £625pcm	MAIDSTONE £675pcm	BARMING £680pcm	MAIDSTONE £725pcm	MARDEN £725pcm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• large 2 bedroom flat</li> <li>• part furnished</li> <li>• parking</li> <li>• large living area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 bedroom maisonette</li> <li>• good location near shops, schools</li> <li>• kitchen with appliances</li> <li>• bathroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 bedroom terrace house</li> <li>• near to Maidstone prison</li> <li>• good sized accommodation</li> <li>• modern interior, rear garden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2nd floor 2 bedroom apartment</li> <li>• open plan living /kitchen area</li> <li>• 2 good sized bedrooms</li> <li>• master ensuite shower room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lovely 2 bedroom listed cottage</li> <li>• near to town centre</li> <li>• good sized rooms, 3 storeys</li> <li>• basement kitchen – lots of character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 bedroom house in great location</li> <li>• 3 good sized bedrooms</li> <li>• modern fitted kitchen</li> <li>• enclosed rear garden</li> </ul>
MEREWORTH £825pcm	QUEEN ELIZABETH SQUARE £850pcm	MAIDSTONE £850pcm	VINTERS PARK £1,100pcm	BLUEBELL HILL VILLAGE £1,500pcm	BISHOPS OAST HUNTON £1,950pcm
<b>AWAITING PHOTOGRAPH</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rural location</li> <li>• 2 bed modern property</li> <li>• lots of parking</li> <li>• rear garden overlooks paddocks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 bed family house</li> <li>• rear enclosed garden, ORP</li> <li>• kitchen with appliances</li> <li>• lounge and dining room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 bedroom family house</li> <li>• good location</li> <li>• separate lounge &amp; dining room</li> <li>• master bedroom with ensuite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 bedroom family home</li> <li>• garden with decked area &amp; pond</li> <li>• double garage, conservatory</li> <li>• large kitchen diner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 bedroom property</li> <li>• on private road</li> <li>• 2 terraces with views</li> <li>• double garage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 bedroom oast house</li> <li>• lots of character</li> <li>• rural location, double garage</li> <li>• large gardens to rear</li> </ul>

Tel: 0845 8732419 • [maidstonelet@connells.co.uk](mailto:maidstonelet@connells.co.uk)

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# Bairstow eves

**Maidstone 01622 691554**

[maidstone@bairstoweves.co.uk](mailto:maidstone@bairstoweves.co.uk)



**£79,950**

One bedroom flat, lounge, kitchen with integrated appliances and parking.



**£119,950**

Unique four bedroom house in town centre, no onward chain and viewing via agent. Viewing recommended.



**£124,995**

Parking to the front which the current owner rents, lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom.



**£139,950**

Rare combination of modern accommodation in a village location, direct river views, shops, two bedrooms.



**£139,995**

Top floor apartment, bathroom, en suite, 2 bedrooms, lounge area, kitchen, views over surrounding area.



**£144,995**

Three bedroom terrace home, popular road near town centre, lounge/diner, kitchen and bathroom plus garden.



**Offers In Excess Of £189,995**

Popular location three bedroom family house, bathroom, en suite, lounge/diner, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom, parking.



**Offers In Excess Of £190,000**

Corner plot, available with no onward chain, lounge and dining room, two bedrooms, bathroom, wc and kitchen.



**Offers In Excess Of £215,000**

Three bedrooms and bathroom, lounge diner, kitchen and utility plus off road parking and rear garden.



**£292,500**

Size and character. Original features including fireplaces, cornicing and picture rails. Five bedrooms.

[www.bairstoweves.co.uk](http://www.bairstoweves.co.uk)

[www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk](http://www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk)



## MOTORS NEWS



### Toyota ready to give the Aygo another go

TOYOTA might have a new smallest model – the new 3+1-seat IQ – but has revised its highly successful Aygo.

The Japanese brand's former champion baby car remains a full yet compact four-seater and prices start from just £7,040, though the classy looking new alloy-shod Aygo Black flagship series starts at £8,250.

The car's efficient three-cylinder 1.0-litre VVT-i petrol engine gains Toyota's Optimal Drive system delivering better efficiency, performance and lower emissions - CO2 output has fallen to 106g/km, though remains slightly above the zero-road tax benchmark.



### Is the Fiesta ECOnetic Britain's greenest car?

FORD'S new Fiesta ECOnetic (from £11,595) variant is claimed to be Britain's greenest family car.

A lowered suspension and aerodynamic tweaks contribute to an average of 76mpg and CO2 emissions of 98g/km – the latter making the ECOnetic road tax exempt.

A 'smart' gear change indicator also senses how the vehicle is being driven – taking account of gradient, vehicle load and driving style – to signal the optimum change point.

Experts at [www.cleangreencars.co.uk](http://www.cleangreencars.co.uk) say the car has set a new green benchmark without loss of driving pleasure.



### Lotus adds finishing touches to cult Soul

KIA'S 'cult car in waiting' goes on sale in March after extensive tuning for UK roads and drivers.

The Korean marque says the new five-door Soul 4x4 lookalike is the first of its cars to get this bespoke ride and handling package, completed by Lotus, no less.

Kia UK MD Paul Philpott said: "We firmly believe customers who have never considered a Kia before will look at Soul and see it as a viable option when it comes to buying a new car."



**GEN-EROUS OFFER:** Half the cost of petrol and big savings on emissions are the major selling points for Proton's cut-price dual-fuel Proton GEN-2 Ecologic

# Proton seeks breakthrough with a free dual-fuel option

PROTON has suffered from an 'elderly' and budget-conscious customer image since arriving here in the late 1980s.

However, the Ecologic might be the car to boost its fortunes as motoring thrift comes back in fashion; it has tanks for petrol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and costs the same as a standard petrol GEN-2.

The big deal here is that a gas conversion would normally cost £1,500-£2,000, so you save that straight away and then buy the LPG fuel itself for about half the price of petrol.

#### Filling points

There are also now some 1,400 LPG filling points up and down the country – nearly 40 across Kent – and you sense that a revolution is taking place quietly to prevent Gordon and the 'Grey Chancellor' slapping a heavier tax on this possible loophole for cash-strapped motorists.

There would be uproar against a government preaching greener motoring though, because

## ROAD TEST PROTON ECOLOGIC

■ BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

#### Driving appeal



#### Image



#### Space



#### Value



#### Running costs



#### Reliability



#### Green rating



LPG emits 20 per cent less CO2 than petrol and slightly less than diesel and without the other nasties that the diesel filter is supposed to pick up.

Burning LPG is also 50 per cent quieter than diesel and is a by-product of crude oil output – UK PLC is awash with the stuff apparently.

However, LPG is up to 15 per cent less fuel efficient and the GEN-2's spare wheel has been sacrificed for a round LPG tank below the boot floor – there is a separate filler on the rear wing next to the petrol inlet.

Like all cars running on LPG, the Ecologic is quieter in this mode. This is a bit of a bonus since cabin and road noise in the GEN-2 – available as hatchback or saloon – feels more old generation than its sleek looks suggest.

Proton has relied heavily on tried and tested Mitsubishi technology, but acquired Lotus and much-needed chassis nous in 1996.

This is the GEN-2's best side; it handles and rides well and equipment is also generous, but interior design and rather low seating feel off the pace against modern rivals, so the Ecologic is the definite best buy of the range.



**SEE MOTORSTV FOR  
MORE ROAD TESTS  
BY STEVE LOADER @  
yourkenttv.co.uk**

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# USED CAR ROUND-UP:

## OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

### RANGE ROVER



AGEING petrol examples of Range Rovers are ridiculously cheap to buy now, but just a few fill-ups at the pumps could see you spending the same amount all over again. Then again, a used RR delivers cut-price entry to an upper-crust view of the road and an awful lot of kit and comfort for your money. Go for the highest spec you can afford though, preferably Vogue flagship level, to claw back most luxury in relation to gas guzzled.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### BIG 4X4s

HIGHER fuel prices and road taxes pole-axed big 4x4 sales new and used last summer. But this week's snowy weather and the sheer value now offered by big and luxurious go anywhere models like those here, may cause a rethink. A £1,500-£2,000 conversion to run on LPG (liquid petroleum gas) also makes sense on unwanted petrol models too - LPG is half the price of petrol. If you need a gutsy 4x4 for rural or towing work or like extra space and cover few miles, the argument stacks up even better.

### BMW X5



FOR many, the X5 is the ultimate SUV (sports utility vehicle) - it's big, laden with badge cachet, drives like a BMW despite a high body and looks the business. All good reasons for desirability and why this 4x4 is holding its value better than most, though it still cannot defy 'erosion by running costs'. The diesels are the favourite buy, but you could save lots with a performance petrol model, especially as diesel is still significantly dearer than its rival.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### TOYOTA LAND CRUISER



IF YOU need a 4x4 to tow a trailer, boat or a caravan then the Land Cruiser is one of the best, living up to rugged looks and helping it to defer the worst depreciation. As with the Range Rover, go for the best spec to make the most of its thirst for fuel, but do not worry about big repair bills; providing your Land Cruiser has not been abused or missed services, major problems should not trouble your horizons.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★



**NETWORK Q**  
Used cars you can rely on

## GREAT MONEY SAVING DEALS

<b>AGILA</b>	08 08 New Agila 1.2 Design 5dr Moroccan Blue	£6,995
<b>CORSA</b>	08 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr Under 11,000 miles Arden Blue	£11,650
	07 56 Corsa 1.2 Club 3dr, 1 owner, Under 12,000 miles, Metro Blue	£6,995
	06 56 Corsa 1.2 Club 5dr, 1 owner, Under 18,000 miles, Air Blue	£6,995
	05 Corsa 1.4 Design Auto 5dr, Star Silver	£5,250
	04 04 Corsa 1.2 Energy 3 dr, Air Con, 1 owner, under 22,000 miles, Black	£4,995
	05 55 Corsa 1.2 Twinport SXi 5dr, 1 owner, Pommegranite Red	£4,995
<b>TIGRA</b>	08 Tigra 1.4 Rouge, Under 3,000 miles, Black Sapphire	£12,995
	06 06 Tigra 1.4 Exclusive A/C, Under 18,000 miles, Antigua	£8,650
<b>MERIVA</b>	08 Meriva 1.4 Active 5 dr, A/C, Alloys, ABS, Ex Demonstrator, Metro Blue	£9,495
	06 06 Meriva 1.3 CDTi Active 5dr A/C, 1 Owner vehicle, Under 28k miles, Star Silver	£6,995
	04 54 Meriva 1.7CDTi Enjoy 5 dr, Under 28,000 miles, Silver Lightning	£5,450
<b>ASTRA</b>	05 Astra 1.7CDTi Life 5 dr A/C, Under 3,000 miles, Black Sapphire	£12,650
	08 08 Astra 1.8 Life 5 dr A/C, Automatic, Under 5,000 miles, Star Silver	£9,995
	08 08 Astra 1.6GSi 5 dr Easytronic, Tiptronic auto / manual box, Metro Blue	£9,650
	08 08 Astra 1.6 Club 5 dr Estate, A/C, Under 6,000 miles, Ultra Blue	£9,650
	08 08 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, Ex Demonstrator, Ultra Blue	£8,650
	07 57 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, Ex Demonstrator, Silver Lightning	£7,450
	07 57 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, Ex Demonstrator, Silver Lightning	£7,450
	07 57 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, Ex Demonstrator, Ultra Blue	£7,450
	05 55 Astra 1.7CDTi SXi 5 dr, A/C, 1 owner, Alloy Wheels, Metro Blue	£6,450
	05 05 Astra 1.6 Breeze 5 dr A/C, Alloy Wheels, Under 40k miles, Silver Lightning	£5,650
	04 54 Astra 1.6 Design 5 dr, A/C, Easytronic, Tiptronic, Half Leather, E/Pack, Papyrus	£5,295
<b>ASTRA SPORT HATCH</b>	08 08 Astra 2.0 VXR Turbo 3dr, Black Sapphire	£14,950
	08 08 Astra 1.8 SRI 3dr Exterior Pack, Under 5,000 miles, Bluetooth, Moonland	£13,650
	08 08 Astra 1.9CDTi SRI 150 XP 3dr, Exterior Pack, Ultra Blue	£11,995
	07 57 Astra 1.8SRi Sport Hatch, Panoramic Roof, Ex Demo, Metro Blue	£8,995
<b>ASTRA TWIN TOP</b>	06 06 Astra 1.9CDTi 150 Design A/C, A/F/Lighting, Full Leather, 18's, Air Blue	£11,250
	07 07 Astra Twintop 1.8 Sport, A/C, Plus Pack, 17"alloys, Under 10k, Pannacotta	£10,995

<b>ZAFIRA</b>	08 08 Zafira 1.9CDTi 120 Elite 5dr, E/Pack, Full Leather, Black Sapphire	£12,850
	07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTi 120 SRI 5dr, Under 7,000 miles, Automatic, Star Silver	£10,950
	07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTi 120 Design 5dr, Under 10,000 miles, Automatic, Black Sapphire	£10,650
	07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTi 120 Design 5dr, Under 14,000 miles, Silver Lightning	£9,850
	07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTi 120 Design 5dr, Under 14,000 miles, Star Silver	£9,850
	07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTi 120 SRI 5dr, Under 16,000 miles, Star Silver	£9,650
	07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTi 120 Club 5dr A/C, 1 owner, Under 7,000 miles, Moonland	£8,950

<b>DEMONSTRATORS</b>	09 NEW Antara 2.0 SE 5dr Auto, Brand New, Tungsten	
	08 08 Antara 2.0 SE 5dr Auto, Star Silver	£19,650
	08 08 Antara 2.0CDTi S Auto, Under 11,000 miles, Star Silver	£13,995
	08 08 Vectra 1.8 Exclusive 5dr, Under 3,000 miles, Star Silver New List	£16,295
	08 08 Zafira 1.9CDTi 120 Elite 5dr, E/Pack, Full Leather, Black Sapphire	£12,850
	08 08 Meriva 1.4 Active 5 dr, A/C, Alloys, ABS, Ex Demonstrator, Metro Blue	£9,495
	08 08 Astra 2.0 VXR Turbo 3dr, Black Sapphire	£14,950

07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTi 120 Club5dr Auto, 1 Owner, Under 16,000 miles, Choice of Two	£8,750
07 07 Zafira 1.8 Design 5dr, 1/2 Leather, 1 Owner, Under 10,000 miles, Moonland	£8,950
07 57 Zafira 1.8 Club 5dr A/C, 1 Owner, Under 17,000 miles, Choice of Three	£8,450
07 57 Zafira 1.6 Life A/C 5dr, 1 Owner, Under 15,000 miles, Black Sapphire	£7,950
07 57 Zafira 1.6 Life A/C 5dr, 1 Owner, Under 15,000 miles, Metro Blue	£7,950
09 NEW Vectra 1.9CDTi (120) Exclusive 5dr, Brand New, Only one left, Black Sapp	
08 58 Vectra 1.8 Exclusive 5dr, Under 3,000 miles, Star Silver	£9,995
07 57 Vectra 1.9CDTi 120 Exclusive 5dr, Under 8,000 miles, Black Sapphire	£8,995
07 57 Vectra 1.8VTi Exclusive 5dr, Under 4,000 miles, Black Sapphire	£7,950
06 06 Vectra 1.8 Exclusive 5dr, A/C, Cruise, Alloys, ABS, Black Sapphire	£6,495
04 04 Vectra 2.2 Design 5dr, 1/2 Leather, Automatic, Under 49,000 miles, Star Silver	£5,650
04 04 Vectra 2.2 Design 5dr, 1/2 Leather, Automatic, Under 46,000 miles, Ultra Blue	£5,650

08 58 Astra 1.8 SRI 3dr Exterior Pack, Under 5,000 miles, Bluetooth, Moonland	£13,650
08 08 Astra 1.7CDTi Life 5 dr A/C, Under 3,000 miles, Black Sapphire	£12,650
08 08 Astra 1.9CDTi SRI 150 XP 3dr, Exterior Pack, Ultra Blue	£11,995
08 08 Astra 1.8 5dr 4dr A/C, Automatic, Under 5,000 miles, Star Silver	£9,995
08 08 Astra 1.6Sxi 5 dr Easytronic, Tiptronic auto / manual box, Metro Blue	£9,650
08 08 Astra 1.6 Club 5 dr Estate, A/C, Under 6,000 miles, Ultra Blue	£9,650
08 08 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, Under 3,000 miles, Ultra Blue	£8,650
08 08 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, Ex Demonstrator, Ultra Blue	£7,950
08 08 Astra 1.4 5dr, 1/2 Leather, Automatic, Under 36,000 miles, Black	£5,995
08 08 Tigra 1.4 Rouge, Under 3,000 miles, Black Sapphire	£12,995
08 08 Corsa 1.6 VXR Turbo 3dr, Arden Blue	£11,650

05 05 Vectra 1.4 Flame 3 dr, Under 20,000 miles, Metallic Blue	£5,450
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09 NEW Movano 2.5CDTi 120ps LWB SR, IN STOCK, Casablanca White	£19,995
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08 57 Movano 2.5CDTi 100ps MWB, Maxi Roof, Ex Demo, Under 2k miles, Arctic White	£10,950
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06 56 Fiesta 1.25 Freedom 3 dr, 1 Owner, Under 9,000 miles, Silver	£5,995
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07 07 Fiesta 1.25 Silver 3 dr, 1 Owner, Under 11,000 miles, Ocean Blue	£5,995
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05 55 Citroen C4 1.6HDi SX 5 dr, 1 Owner, Under 36,000 miles, Black	£5,995
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05 05 Peugeot 1.4 Flame 3 dr, Under 20,000 miles, Metallic Blue	£5,450
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09 NEW Movano 2.5CDTi 115 LWB 2.9t Pre Registered, Delivery Mileage, Star Silver	£12,450
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08 08 Vivaro 2.0CDTi 115 LWB 2.9t Pre Registered, Delivery Mileage, Casablanca White	£11,950
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08 08 Vivaro 2.0CDTi 115 Sportive SWB SR Pre Registered, Delivery Mileage, Ocean Green	£12,450
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08 08 Vivaro 2.0CDTi 115 Sportive SWB SR Pre Registered, Delivery Mileage, Midnight Black	£12,450
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08 08 Vivaro 2.0CDTi 115 SWB 2.9t Van, Ex Parts Delivery, E/Pack, White	£8,995
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08 08 Astravan 1.9 Sportive A/C, Alloys, Demonstrator, Metr Blue	£9,995
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07 57 Astravan 1.7CDTi Club, 6 Speed, Delivery Mileage, White	£7,995
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08 08 Combo 1.3CDTi 2000 Crew Van Pre Registered, Delivery Mileage, Glacier White	£8,450
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08 08 Lacetti 1.6 SX 5 dr Estate, 1 Owner, Under 6,000 miles, Pearl Black	£6,995
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**CHEVROLET**

**AVEO**, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection cd central locking clock driver airbag driver seat height adjustment electric front windows passenger airbag power steering radio tiltable steering wheel wiper rear window, poly silver, 25 miles, £815, FGBarnes, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

**KALOS**, SX 5dr, power steering, anti theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, metallic paint, abs, multiple airbags, electric front windows, cd, blue, 14" alloys, blue, 10000 miles, £4495, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), 01222 524 680 (TRADE)

**MATIZ**, SE 5dr, immobiliser, central locking, cloth upholstery, metallic paintwork, air bag, power steering, electric front windows, cd, blue, 5000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), 01222 524 680 (TRADE)

**NEW LACETTI**, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection cd player central locking clock driver airbag driver seat height adjustment electric front windows exterior mirrors electric exterior temperature passenger airbag power steering radio tiltable steering wheel wiper rear window, poly silver, 25 miles, £9995, FGBarnes, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

**TACUMA**, CDX Plus, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air cond, cd, metallic paintwork, abs, multiple airbags, adjustable steering column, power steering, anti-theft system, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, 15" alloys, grey, 4000 miles, £5495, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

**DAEWOO**

**DAEWOO NUBIRA**, 4 door saloon, 06 2000, 1.6 p se mot July 08, 0 miles, £500, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

**MATIZ**, SE 5dr, ea02tce, orange, 80000 miles, £2199, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

**TACUMA**, CDX 1998cc 5 door, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking alarm driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering immobiliser electric windows, met blue, 85000 miles, £2495, Northdown Road Motor Company, Margate, 01843 290890 (TRADE)

**DAIHATSU**

**MATERIA**, 1.5 MPV 5d 1495cc, 5/2008, alloy wheels electric door mirrors radio/cd player a/c front fog lamps reverse parking sensors remote central locking, steel grey, 2000 miles, £11, 895, Chertsey Motor House, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

**SIRION**, 1.0 SE Hatchback 5d 998cc, 5/2008, abs ps remote central locking radio/cd player electric windows a/c on reverse parking sensors, bright red, 2500 miles, £8495, Chertsey Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

**TERIOS**, 1.3 Sport Station Wagon 5d 1298cc, 05 2005, remote central locking, a/b, electric windows/mirrors, power assisted steering, twin sr airbags, cd radio system, air conditioning, 5 speed gearbox, grey cloth interior, roof spoiler, side opening rear door, parcel shelf, large boot, alloy wheels, front and rear fog lamps, full service history, metallic blue and grey, miles, £6795, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

**HYUNDAI**

**ACCENT**, Gsi 5dr, gk52ymp, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, aluminium silver, 60000 miles, £6299, Marshams, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

**AMICA**, CDX 5dr, lv56yva, immobiliser, power steering, abs, electric front windows, cd player, alloys, blue, 6000 miles, £3995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

**CINQUECENTO**, m/1994, manual locking manual windows, red, 74,000 miles, £was £695 now £595, Chertsey Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

**DOPPIO**, Dynamic Jtd, gf54ylg, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, roof rails, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, alloy wheels, black, 41000 miles, £4690, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

**GETZ**, Gsi SE 3dr, en06 fdk, power steering, abs, cd player, radio, twin air bags, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, central locking, red, 26800 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

**MATRIX**, Gsi, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, roof rails, central locking, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, power steering, adjustable steering column, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, alloy wheels, silver/green, 17500 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

**FORD**

**FIESTA**, Zetec 1399cc 5 door, 2002, cd player central locking driver's airbag power steering history check electric windows, silver, 17200 miles, £7995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

**106**, Xn Zest 2 3dr, 796461, cloth upholstery, head restraints, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, folding rear seats, sunroof, cd player, stereo, red metallic, 77700 miles, £1999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

**COOPER S**, 1.6 3 3DR, 2002, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, blue, 42000 miles, £1995, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

**COOPER**, 1.6 3 DR, 2002, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, blue, 42000 miles, £1995, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

**911 CARRERA 4**, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 46000 miles, £29950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

**911 TURBO**, 3.6 manual, 2003, black metallic with black leather, 17800 miles, £49950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

**CAYMAN**, 3.4 S 2dr, 3.4 s 2dr coupe, dark blue, 38000 miles, £32995, Wilmot's Ashford, Ashford, 01233 710685 (TRADE)

**911 CARRERA 4S**, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 10800 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

**911 TURBO S**, 3.6 manual, 2003, black metallic with black leather, 17800 miles, £49950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

**911 CARRERA 4S**, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 10800 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

**911 TURBO S**, 3.6 manual, 2003, black metallic with black leather, 17800 miles, £49950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

**911 CARRERA 4S**, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 10800 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

**911 TURBO S**, 3.6 manual, 2003, black metallic with black leather, 17800 miles, £49950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

**911 CARRERA 4S**, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 10800 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

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**Senior & General Appointments** 35-38

### Swift Security requires a **Mobile Patrol / Supervisor**

Must have full UK Driving Licence and SIA Licence. Applicants must have experience in Security Supervision.

Please contact 01233 650160 

### ST WERBURGH MEDICAL PRACTICE

98 Bells Lane, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9HU

#### PART TIME RECEPTIONIST REQUIRED

To cover maternity leave. Experienced preferred but not essential as training will be given. Basic knowledge of computers essential. Own transport needed as you will be required to work over 3 sites.

AM & PM sessions

#### 25 HOURS PER WEEK

FOR APPLICATION FORM AND JOB DESCRIPTION

Please Telephone Mrs Julie Allen on: 01634 250523

Or Email: [julie.allen@hhs.net](mailto:julie.allen@hhs.net)

### Canterbury area **2 FEMALE CARERS WANTED**

Must have care experience and own transport  
Salary £7.00 hour  
full/part-time hours

Contact  
MS Care Ltd  
01843 280999

### **BenefCare Fostering**

#### GENUINE OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

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- ARE YOU AN EXPERIENCED CARER LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE OR CHANGE?

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Web: [www.benefcarefostering.co.uk](http://www.benefcarefostering.co.uk)

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01795 431500

## **Director of Human Resources** **MidKent College** **Medway Kent**

**Salary circa £75,000 + Generous Benefits Package**

MidKent College is the largest provider of education and training in Kent, employing more than 1,000 staff and training over 10,000 students and 3,000 soldiers per year. In these exceptional times we are about to relocate to our £86 million new premises which are nearing completion in Gillingham, we have just commenced service under a Private Public Partnership

delivering training services to the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham and we are finalising exciting plans for the redevelopment of our site in Maidstone. To compliment this we are currently looking for a Director of HR to take full responsibility for the strategic and operational development for all aspects of the HR functions within the College.

#### Role

- Lead the development of a progressive HR function to support the College's ambitious change agenda.
- Forge strong and professional relationships with the Senior Leadership Team and other stakeholders by demonstrating an ability to deliver highly professional services in line with the College vision and values.
- Contribute significantly to the organisational development of the College and make improvements to individual and team performances which in turn will benefit students.

#### The Candidate

- You will be qualified to a minimum of CIPD graduate level and have senior management experience of a strategic and operational Human Resource role.
- You will have up-to-date knowledge of current and emerging employment legislation and an impressive and proven track record of moving the HR functions forward in a large, complex and changing organisation.
- You will have a demonstrable track record of leading change and improvement, gaining the support of staff and achieving tangible results.
- You will have superb communication skills and the ability to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders
- You will be a determined, creative and results orientated individual with the ability to influence at all levels.

For full details and application pack please contact  
Katherine Reilly on 01634 884398  
or email [katherine.reilly@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:katherine.reilly@midkent.ac.uk)

For a confidential discussion about this exciting post please call Ken Pullan (our retained consultant) on 07725 128661. Closing Date: 9th February 2009.



The brand new Medway Campus will replace the College's existing sites at Horsted and City Way. September 2009 will see the opening of the College's innovative new Medway Campus in Gillingham, and plans are currently being developed for a dazzling transformation of the Maidstone Campus at Oakwood Park.



Old Charlton Road,  
Dover, Kent CT16 2QB

### required for September 2009 **GRADUATES**

to achieve qualified teacher status through the one year Graduate Teachers' Programme teaching **Mathematics, Science, Leisure & Tourism, & MFL** (French, Spanish, Italian: any combination) to GCSE and/or A Level.

Apply in writing, enclosing a C.V. to  
Mr C. J. Atkin (Headteacher)  
Tel: 01304 201551 Fax: 01304 202226  
Email: [office@st-edmunds-dover.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-edmunds-dover.kent.sch.uk)  
An enhanced CRB disclosure check will be required  
Closing Date: Friday 6th March Interviews: Tuesday 17th March

### **Therapeutic Day Programme Workers**

£21,244 - £27,492 • 37 HOURS PER WEEK

#### BASED EAST AND WEST KENT

KCA provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. Working as part of a community team you will be providing a range of services for people with drug and alcohol problems. You will be part of the day programme team, and will be required to take a leading role in the planning and delivery of a structured holistic programme. This includes therapeutic group work, assessment and key working, complementary therapies and one to one counselling.

A qualification to diploma level in counselling with group work experience, preferably in a drug and alcohol day programme or residential setting is required. A BACP accreditation would be advantageous.

Closing date: 9 February 2009.

Interview date: 18 February 2009.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email [recruitment@kca.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@kca.org.uk). Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 546.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers**. Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email [recruitment@kca.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@kca.org.uk)

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no. 292824.

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)





## Marlowe Academy

Stirling Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6NB - Tel: 01843 593326 - [www.marloweacademy.co.uk](http://www.marloweacademy.co.uk)

### Graduate Teaching Programme

Applications are invited for places on the Graduate Programme in the following subjects

Mathematics – English – ICT/Business Studies

This is a DCSEF scheme in conjunction with the Advisory Service for Kent. For the training year, successful candidates will be employed by the school as unqualified teachers. The current salary is £5,113 pa. Candidates must have a degree in a related subject, have left university for at least a year before commencing training, and have some experience of working with children.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The closing date for all posts: Friday 13th February 2009.

This is an amazing opportunity for talented and ambitious professionals to join the academy.

Please send a copy of your CV to the school or email [jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk](mailto:jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk)

Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome.

Please contact Jennifer Spooener on direct telephone number 01843 598550 or email to address above.



## Marlowe Academy

Stirling Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6NB - Tel: 01843 593326 - [www.marloweacademy.co.uk](http://www.marloweacademy.co.uk)

### M & E Lead Engineer

required to develop, implement and act upon a PPM programme for two educational establishments in Ramsgate and Folkestone with the potential to support additional sites in the future.

You will be an experienced all-around Electrical engineer, in a hand-on role.

This is an amazing opportunity for a talented and ambitious professional

On offer: salary at £33,000 to £38,000 per annum.

25 days paid holiday, 40 hour work week split between sites.

Additional specifications will be sent on request.

Please email [carolineo'connor@marloweacademy.co.uk](mailto:carolineo'connor@marloweacademy.co.uk) for more details.

Closing date for applications: Monday 16th February 2009

We look forward to hearing from you.

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### HMYOI ROCHESTER, MEDWAY PRISONS HEALTH PARTNERSHIP >

### EXTRAORDINARY JOBS. EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.

HMYOI Rochester requires Registered General Nurses, Mental Health Nurses and Learning Difficulties Nurses:

### BAND 5 REGISTERED NURSES (GENERAL, MENTAL HEALTH, LEARNING DIFFICULTIES) £20,225 - £26,123 PA PLUS ENVIRONMENT ALLOWANCE OF £1,542 PER ANNUM AND ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROSTERED WEEKEND WORKING.

The Registered General Nurse will nurse in a general practice environment and respond calmly in a changing environment or to urgent events. Skills including chronic disease management, good assessment skills, triage, minor illnesses, sexual health and health promotion skills are desirable. The Registered Mental Health or Learning Difficulties nurse will assess and support a range of community mental health, mental illness and behavioural issues including work with substance and alcohol misuse. Skills needed include crisis intervention and risk management and work with self-harm. CBT and behavioural management skills and experience working with conduct disorder, ADHD or Autism/Aspergers spectrum behaviours will be valued.

Nursing in prison is an opportunity to make a difference in the life chances of young people in custody for whom health improvement is part of the key to unlocking their future.

HMYOI Rochester requires two Band 4 Health Support Workers delivering a range of one-to-one and group interventions:

### BAND 4 HEALTH SUPPORT WORKERS (PRIMARY CARE & PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH CARE) – HMYOI ROCHESTER (HEALTHCARE SUPPORT WORKER) £17,316 - £20,818 PA PLUS ENVIRONMENT ALLOWANCE OF £952 PER ANNUM AND ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROSTERED WEEKEND WORKING.

With a relevant qualification preferably to diploma level or NVQ 3/4 or equivalent or relevant qualifying experience in health, health education, or social care service delivery you will have a proven record and work well in partnership with other professionals. You must have good basic educational skills and the ability to deliver interventions one-to-one or with groups is essential. Knowledge of health education and health improvement procedures and techniques is desirable. Health promotion in prison is an opportunity to make a difference in the life chances of young people in custody for whom health improvement is part of the key to unlocking their future.

In return, you'll receive 27 days' annual leave plus 8 public and privilege holidays per annum and entry into the NHS Pension by invitation.

To apply for these posts please email [kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmprsi.gov.uk](mailto:kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmprsi.gov.uk)  
Applicants will require an email address in order for applications to be sent to them.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 20 February 2009.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.



Public Sector Prisons

## Career Opportunities



Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

### Temporary Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Studies

09/04

37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed 12 months.

### Temporary Lecturer Animal Care and Veterinary Nursing

08/42

37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed 12 months.

### Lecturer Hairdressing

09/05

9.25 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum.

### Lecturer ICT

09/06

37 or 2 x 18.5 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum. (pro rata for part time posts)

### Lecturer Key Skills (to Building Services students)

06/175

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

### Lecturer Key Skills (to Automotive Engineering students)

07/30

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

### Business Partnership Manager

07/45

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £27,073 per annum

### Technician to Support Applications (Standard)

ATS

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,963 per annum

### Supply NVQ Assessors are required in the following areas:

S/NVQ/EY

Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

### Early Years

S/NVQ/PW

### Play Work

### Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Business, ICT, Hospitality and Catering, Hairdressing, Beauty and Holistic Therapies, Sports, Leisure, Travel and Tourism

04/118

18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum.

### Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Engineering & Construction

08/148

37 or 2 x 18.5 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

### Night Cleaners

08/22

20 hrs per week, salary £6.42 per hour

For an information pack please visit [www.canterburycollege.ac.uk](http://www.canterburycollege.ac.uk) or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 16th February 2009 at 12 noon

**CLICK**  
[www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies](http://www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies)

**CALL**  
01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



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## House Manager

### Negotiable Salary

Required to run a Residential home for Adults with Learning Disability at our Sheerness home. You must have at least 2 years previous experience on a management level.

To be confident, assertive and possess excellent communication skills (written and verbal) at all levels. Experience of writing reports, undertaking projects and supporting the Organisation. You will need to hold NVQ Level 4 Management in Care; RMA is desirable but not essential as training will be given. Must be fully conversant with Care Standards.

If you have experience we are looking for, please write with a full CV and covering letter together with a note of your salary expectations to:

Administrative Manager / Christine Morgan  
Forward Care (Residential) Ltd  
15 Keycol Hill, Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8LZ  
Closing date 31st January 2009  
Previous applicants need not reply

Charing Healthcare are looking to recruit  
**MANAGERS and DEPUTIES** for care homes in Maidstone and Dover areas.

For more information or an informal discussion please call Mrs Heather Viggers on 07534965270 or head office on 01322 385033.

\*Any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory CRB checks.



### European and UK Transport Manager

An excellent opportunity has arisen for a European and UK Transport Manager to work within a dynamic and fast moving Company.

The Key responsibilities for the role will include managing a fleet of over fifty coaches whilst ensuring that both vehicles and drivers are fully utilised.

The successful applicant will be a UK and International CPC holder familiar with the planning of vehicles and the ability to operate a successful traffic workflow through the generation of strong innovative problem solving techniques.

For more information call the HR Department on 01303 261870 or email hr@buzzlines.co.uk

### Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for...

### TEACHING ASSISTANTS

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2

£14,847 - £18,882 + SEN Allowance (£1,162)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matters' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred.

Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):

Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338224)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 13.2.2009

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For an application pack please call 01233 610661 or apply online at [www.outlookfostering.com](http://www.outlookfostering.com)

Closing date for applications 13th February 2009



Colyer Road, Northfleet  
Gravesend, Kent DA11 8BG  
Head: John Hassett MA

### GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

In collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, we wish to offer the following:

#### Trainee placement on the following Graduate Teacher Programmes from Sept 2009: Maths Science Music

The successful candidate will receive training from experienced teachers at Northfleet Technology College supplemented by a number of days provided by Canterbury University.

The successful person must have at least 50% of their degree in their chosen subject. They need to be organised, self motivated and able to work independently.

Salary will be £15,113

This very popular school of 900 boys, awarded specialist status in September 2003, is situated in the 'Thames Gateway' area of Kent, with excellent links to nearby London and the Channel coast. NTC is an exciting environment to work in, which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff. There is a well established ethos of professional development for all our employees.

We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details.

An application form can be obtained from by telephone 01474 533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email [taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk](mailto:taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk). Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: [www.ntc.kent.sch.uk](http://www.ntc.kent.sch.uk).

Closing Date is Friday the 27th of February.



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We are looking for enthusiastic, hard working people to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post please contact the School Office, on 01304 206117, for an application form and further information. Applications should include completed application form with supporting letter, and the names, addresses (fax numbers) of two referees.

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 24 February 2009

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 4 March 2009

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You will need a qualification in counselling at diploma level and experience of working in the drug and alcohol field would be desirable. BACP accreditation or working towards this is essential.

The flexibility to work away from your service base and the ability to work outside normal office hours would be an advantage.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email [recruitment@kca.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@kca.org.uk). Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 550.

Closing date: Friday 13 February 2009.

Interview date: Thursday 19 February 2009.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers**. Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email [recruitment@kca.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@kca.org.uk)

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no. 292824.

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)





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Derwent Way, Rainham, GILLINGHAM Kent ME8 0BX  
(NOR 1570) • Head Teacher: Mrs J Dunn

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Any offer of employment for this post will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.  
The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.  
Application forms and further details are available from Mrs D Francis, Personnel Officer at the School.  
Tel: 01634 362746, Fax: 01634 388334, email: [df Francis@rsg.org.uk](mailto:df Francis@rsg.org.uk)  
Closing date: Monday, 9th February 2009



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- Close to Town Centre

The closing date for the above post is Monday 16th February 2009 at 12 noon



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If this sounds like you, please contact Ken Pullan on 0725128661 or email your CV to [ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk). (Applicants will be invited to tour the facilities prior to shortlisting for interview).

Closing date: 16th February 2009.

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under-represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

*MidKent College is an equal opportunity employer*



**MKC Training Services Limited**



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Women's Refuge x2  
Part-Time • 17,000 pro rata**

The Rising Sun Domestic Violence Project has secured 1 year's funding for 2 part-time children's workers to work with children living in Ashford Refuge. The posts are each 15 1/2 hours per week and are to be worked together. Each person will work 2 mornings and 3 after school sessions offering support, mentoring and preschool play sessions. We are looking for someone with an NVQ level 2 or above in childcare. Experience of working with children in an appropriate setting (school; playgroup; nursery etc) advantage as is an interest in supporting children who have experienced living with Domestic Abuse. An enhanced CRB check is required. Only women need apply - Exempt under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 Section 7 (2) (e).

Please E-mail: [emma@rsdvp.co.uk](mailto:emma@rsdvp.co.uk) for an application form.

Closing date Friday February 6th. Interview date to be arranged.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD**  
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in connection with the content of our media.

3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time of advertisement appears.

4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.

5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passes and access to our website by the advertiser to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of our website via password or password protected access to our owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.

6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords indefinitely to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.

7. Copyright and other intellectual property rights in the media content and for advertising purposes or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.

8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertiser will be required to pay for the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.

9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation advertising on behalf of the media owner.

10. A minimum of one month's insertion cannot be given unless the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.

11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.

12. Payment by bank order, in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of Publishing.

13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.

14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership in respect of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to deduct charges for any services provided to the media owner.

15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.

16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media (standard effectuated) and advertising rates will be recalculated accordingly in line with KOS Media (standard effectuated) rates for the month of cancellation (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be recalculated and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the cancellation. Any cancellation or cancellation of the advertiser's agreement will give a minimum of seven days' notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.

17. Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be booked in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.

18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising/commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard or commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services company. TV commercial cancellations will be charged at the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music, it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the media owner to replace the TV production with a replacement from a choice of photography offered by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.

20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze), other than those which will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).

21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.

22. a. All credit accounts shall be settled by the 30th day of the month of the invoice and to be paid by the Advertiser by the 30th day of the month following the date of the invoice. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.

b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time.

c. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of any monies not paid by the due date.

d. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.

23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.

24. Advertising Agency contracts will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the News Media Group, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.

25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.

26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the components of the News Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal action arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.

27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.

28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

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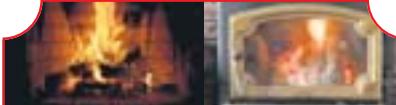
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# Leading the way to low-carbon future

■ BY TONY PATEY

COMPANIES that want to shout about their environmental credentials are being urged to enter the Environment Awards for Kent Business 2009.

As well as highlighting environmental work, the awards also reward companies that have had a positive impact in the community.

During their 21-year history, the awards have drawn entries from hundreds of organisations of all sizes from many sectors.

Cllr Keith Ferrin, Kent County Council's cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, said: "Environmental good practice can help companies and organisations to conduct their business more efficiently and save money."

"With the economic downturn, it is even more important at this time to share best practice and applaud environmental systems which are of benefit to all."

This year the black tie awards ceremony, which will be held at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe, on September 24, will recognise the top five entries, as well as the Kent Environment Business of the Year 2009. The current holder of the title is Stone Circle Livery of Woodchurch, near Ashford, which was the UK's first and only fully organic horse livery yard.

The family-owned business was recognised for careful land management and work creating new habitat and woodland, restoring ponds and recreating wildflower meadows not widely seen in the UK since medieval times.

Energy giant E.ON has become a sponsor for the first time.

Tim Pyke, climate manager for E.ON in the UK, said: "I believe we can all play our part in achieving a lower carbon future so we're



IN THE SADDLE: Organiser Alex Green, left, with Susi Anderson of Stone Circle Livery at Woodchurch

delighted to be a sponsor."

Other sponsors are Kent County Council, Business Link and the Environment Agency. Entries must be submitted before April 30.

For more details, visit [www.kent.gov.uk/environmentawards](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environmentawards), email [environmentawards@kent.gov.uk](mailto:environmentawards@kent.gov.uk) or telephone 01622 221859.

## Now would be a nice time not to alienate staff

BOSSES have been reminded that treating their staff well is even more of a necessity in the current economic climate.

Research has revealed that companies that are nice to their staff are more likely to survive a downturn compared to more ruthless employers.

Trish Fraser, managing director of Quality South East, the Investors in People centre for the region, said: "The findings confirm our own experiences with companies that have chosen to use IIP to improve their businesses.

"It is all about valuing staff and organisations that we work with and have demonstrated time and again that by communicating with employees and effectively 'being nice' to them, a real improvement can be made to the business, ultimately leading to financial savings."

The survey was funded by the Health and Safety Executive, Investors in People and the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Ms Fraser said: "The value of happy, healthy and motivated staff cannot be overstated. Employees who are not dealing with unnecessary stress are less likely to take time off sick and also tend to be more loyal, greatly reducing staff turnover."

"We all recognise that 2009 is going to be a tough year but there are ways to mitigate the risks for businesses."



KIND WORD: Trish Fraser

## EU millions to boost our rural heartland

RURAL businesses in the county town and surrounding villages are set to benefit a massive multi-million pound scheme.

European Union grants totalling £3.85 million have been made available to help business, farmers and communities in mid and west Kent.

Cllr Richard Long, Kent County Council's lead member for regeneration and supporting independence, said: "This comes as a much-needed boost to Kent's rural heartland at this difficult time. It is so good to be able to give rural businesses and communities a shot in the arm during the downturn."

Mid Kent is getting £2.25 million and its grants will be spread over five years.

These will be made available by the Kent Downs and Marshes Leader rural funding programme, with KCC taking care of the administration.

Grants of up to £50,000 can be awarded to help farmers developing new local food products, innovative new tourism schemes and community-led projects. The money has come through under the EU's rural development programme for England and Defra, through Seeda.

Applications can be made online at [www.kentruralnetwork.org.uk/leader](http://www.kentruralnetwork.org.uk/leader). Alternatively, email [contactruralregeneration@kent.gov.uk](mailto:contactruralregeneration@kent.gov.uk)

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Bank awards aimed at social entrepreneurs

NOT-for-profit organisations in Kent have a month left to enter the Bank of Scotland Corporate £6 million Social Entrepreneur Awards.

There are 5,057 not for-profit organisations in the South East.

There are two awards on offer and entrants must specify which they wish to enter: up to £5 million funding free of interest and arrangement fees for three years; or a one-off cash donation of up to £500,000, and up to £1 million funding free of interest and arrangement fees for three years, or a one-off cash donation of up to £100,000. The winner of each award will also secure three days mentoring from one of the UK's best known social entrepreneurs. Closing date is February 23, and for more information visit [www.bossocialawards.co.uk](http://www.bossocialawards.co.uk).

### Piece of the ISO action

THAMES Gateway Chamber's Jigsaw Club, which helps members achieve International Standardisation Organisation certification, has scored again.

It has helped Sittingbourne-based graphic designers Signs Unlimited complete the ISO 9001-2000.

The company was assisted by chamber-based ISO consultant Stuart Brealey, who said almost all local councils require this and if bidding for any Olympic contracts it will be a must-have requirement before a firm can even get on to an approved list.

Many councils and larger organisations also want to see the Environmental Standard ISO 14001-2004.

### Calling all contractors

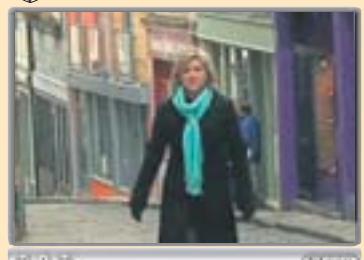
FIRMS are being urged to apply for a place on Kent County Council's select list of approved contractors.

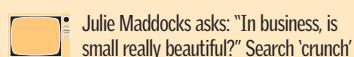
If accepted, companies will be put on the list from which KCC sites choose contractors when arranging for work to be carried out. Existing contractors also need to apply because they won't automatically go on the list.

Apply online at [www.kent.gov.uk/business/support-services-and-advice/property-group/contractor-applications.htm](http://www.kent.gov.uk/business/support-services-and-advice/property-group/contractor-applications.htm).

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 Julie Maddocks asks: "In business, is small really beautiful?" Search 'crunch'

# Insurers stick to letter of the law as belts tighten

■ BY **TONY PATEY**

INSURANCE companies are getting tougher as the economy gets rougher.

So with insurers tightening their belts in the downturn, it's even more important that firms make sure they get the right cover sorted out and they make legitimate claims.

If they don't they'd better watch out, because they could find they have to face a lot of extra work and hassle if they make a claim.

In the past many would rely on insurers to bend over backwards to help them.

Industry insiders reckon that the days of claims going through without serious scrutiny or fuss have gone.

Insurers are sticking to the letter of the law and saying it's not their responsibility if the insured firm hasn't bothered to get it right in the first place.

Insurance companies are investors and, like the banks, have suffered losses during the credit crunch.

And, like any other business, they are trying to control costs and this means they'll place greater emphasis on ensuring claims are carefully assessed.

As a result, it is likely there will be an increase in rejected claims caused by inadvertent – or in some cases cost-cutting – misinformation on the part of policyholders.

David Armstrong, associate director of



**WARNING:** David Armstrong of Belmont International says insurance firms are now taking a tougher line

Oxford-based independent insurance broker Belmont International, said: "In recent years insurers have endeavoured to pay claims quickly in the name of efficiency.

"However, now insurance companies are increasingly insisting on every bit of paperwork associated with a claim and require a chapter and verse report before they will pay out.

"Claim fraud, already a problem in the UK, inevitably increases during tougher trading times. The poor behaviour of the few inevitably leads to insurers being a lot more meticulous and less flexible in their approach.

"There is also a greater use of loss adjusters, private investigators and other means to make sure what policyholders are saying is true.

"A business that understates their financial estimates or sums insured may be taken to task by their insurance company."

Policyholders who give incorrect information on insurance forms, via an agent or online, are in real danger of invalidating their insurance, which could mean a reduced payout or none at all.

In general, companies, organisations and individuals who try and make a fraudulent claim will not find it an easy touch.

Insurers and police forces around the country now have an agreement where insurance companies can get quick information if they think they're being conned.

Insurers can ask police for further information where they think there's any evidence that fraud has been committed, for example to check the value of items stolen in a burglary listed in the police report form matches what is being claimed for.

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**IN CONTENTION:** Aylesford Bulls returned to winning ways and are back in the hunt for the play-off positions

## Another defeat for luckless Maidstone

MAIDSTONE ladies hockey 1st XI remain bottom of the Women's Conference East table following a heavy 4-1 defeat at Harleston Magpies.

Maidstone found themselves four goals behind after just 17 minutes as Harleston started quickly with a brace from Angie Wheelhouse. Goals from Anna Toulson and Artemis Clark left Maidstone with a mountain to climb in the second half.

To their credit Maidstone improved defensively, but could only find the net once through Rachel Thompson to make the final score 4-1.

This Saturday Maidstone host fourth placed Old Loughtonians as they bid to get their season back on track.

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**Former Premiership referee Paul Alcock** explains his role in new athletics stadium

## Bears climb up to fifth place in league

BEARSTED moved up to fifth in the Kent County League Premier Division with an action packed 5-2 win at Snodland.

A brace from Gavin Vennamore and Alex Flusher helped the Bears on their way to three points in the first half.

Snodland produced a spirited fight back in the second half with two goals from Stuart West, but the result was put beyond doubt when Steve Smith added a fifth goal for Bearsted.

Bearsted could move up to fourth if they clinch three points at Bly Spartans this Saturday. Snodland host Milton & Fulston United.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT**  
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

# Dorman's late try nets win for rampant Bulls

## RUGBY

**Deal & Betteshanger 13 Aylesford Bulls 16**

AYLESFORD Bulls moved back into play-off contention in London South East 3 with a hard fought victory at Deal & Betteshanger.

Aylesford showed no signs of their disappointing defeat to Old Elthamians last week and took the lead with four minutes on the clock. Luke Cherrington successfully kicked a penalty to give the visitors a 3-0 lead. Deal & Betteshanger levelled the scores shortly after with a penalty of their own.

With the home side's defence holding firm, Aylesford were restricted to forcing penalties to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

Cherrington gave the Bulls a 6-3 lead with another successful penalty, which they held into the break.

Ten minutes into the second half the Bulls scored the opening try of the afternoon with a well-worked attacking move. A clever reverse pass found the hands of full-back Matt Hawke, who skipped over for a try.

With Aylesford looking to wrap up the vic-

tory, the home side struck with a well executed counter attacking try. A long kick downfield caused the Bulls defence problems and the Deal winger raced in for their first try of the game.

Bulls were rattled by conceding a try and immediately went in search of another score to put the game to bed. They were rewarded for their efforts as Mark Dorman found a gap in the defence to crash over.

Deep into the final minutes the home side scored a consolation try, but Aylesford clinched the two points. The Bulls host Lewes this Saturday.



**DISAPPOINTING DEFEAT:** Meshach Nugent (pictured) almost gave Maidstone the lead in the first half but he was unable to find a way past a resilient Dartford defence

# Stones fail to rise to the occasion in derby defeat

## FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

**Dartford 1**

Haworth 63

**Maidstone United 0**

### Maidstone starting XI



Subs used: Lewis (Peacock 29) Blackman (Thompson 60)

Andrew Young.

The second half followed the pattern of the first with neither side taking the game by the scruff of the neck until the 63rd minute.

A mistake from goalkeeper Andy Walker allowed Darts striker Rob Haworth to intercept the ball on the edge of the area and he fired easily into an empty net for the opening goal.

After going a goal down Maidstone picked up the pace and went in search of an equaliser and were only denied by the woodwork with 15 minutes remaining. Elliot Bradbrook dribbled the ball to the edge of the area before letting fly

with a curling effort which crashed against the cross bar.

However, Bradbrook's shot was the closest the Stones came to an equaliser. Joint manager Lloyd Hume felt his side defended well, but struggled to create chances in the final third.

He said: "We have only had one chance in the game and hit the bar and to be fair Dartford only won because of a goalkeeping howler from us."

"I am disappointed, but I thought a draw would have been a fair result."

# King tries help league strugglers to second win

## RUGBY

■ BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

**Beckenham 20**  
**Maidstone 38**

AFTER going 14 games without a league win a transformed Maidstone side ran in five tries to clinch their second victory in as many weeks.

Maidstone started the game with a spring in their step and pressed Beckenham into their 22. The pressure led to Beckenham conceding an early penalty, which Craig Whitehead converted to give Maidstone an early lead.

The lead was short-lived as a yellow card to Matt Iles for a late tackle handed Beckenham the initiative and they punished the 14 men of Maidstone by running in two tries.

Minutes later Maidstone recovered and got themselves back in the game with a well-worked try from a Beckenham scrum. The Maidstone scrum-half turned the ball over and chipped deep into the Beckenham 22. The bouncing ball caused chaos and allowed Tommy King to gather the ball and crash over the line.

In the final ten minutes of the half



**IN FORM:** Maidstone continued their promising start to 2009 by running in five tries for a second league victory

Maidstone stormed into the lead with two quick-fire tries from Iles and Gareth Hill.

Beckenham came out in the second half with something to prove and immediately stunned the Maidstone defence by scoring an early try. A further penalty put Beckenham to within two points of Maidstone.

However, Beckenham's domination of the second half lasted just ten minutes as Maidstone reorganised and went on the offensive.

King and Neil Graves continued to cause the Beckenham defence problems and the pair put the game out of the reach of Beckenham with two late tries. Tom Searles kicked a penalty to make the final score 38-20.

With two league wins on the bounce, Maidstone are due to play Bromley in the second round of the Kent Cup this Saturday. Maidstone return to league action on February 14 when they host Gravesend.



**RETURN:** The new athletics track could see more athletes return to Medway & Maidstone

## Track construction is running on time

WORK to build Medway & Maidstone Athletics Club's long-awaited new track will begin next week.

The club have joined forces with Sutton Valence School to fund the state-of-the-art facility to be built on the school site.

After receiving the final go ahead from Maidstone council last week, construction will begin in the next ten days and the track is due to be completed in July.

Club chairman Paul Alcock can't wait for construction to begin and believes the facility will persuade more people to get involved in athletics.

He said: "It makes me very proud as the athletics club have been trying for 25 years to get a track in Maidstone. It has been a bit of a roller coaster ride but we are now right at the top of the rollercoaster and there are no more hurdles to go through. Within the next ten days work will begin.

"We have lost many athletes due to travelling problems so the facility will hopefully encourage a few people back to the club."

The club plan to open the facility by hosting the Kent Relay Championships in September.

## FOOTBALL



**DESIRE:** Elliot Bradbrook came close to scoring an equaliser by striking the crossbar on Saturday

## Financial problems not affecting us, says Bradbrook

**INFLUENTIAL** Maidstone United midfielder Elliot Bradbrook feels the club's financial problems have not affected the players' desire for success.

Bradbrook joined the club during the summer and has been an integral part of Maidstone's attacking force. The 23-year-old is enjoying his time at the club and revealed the players have not been rocked by the financial difficulties.

He said: "We are all mates at the club. It is not just about 11 players who play for the same team. There is a great atmosphere in the dressing room. Money aside, we are going out there fighting for the cause and working hard for each other. At the end of the day we have just got to go out there and do our best for the club."

The winger came closest to scoring for Maidstone during their 1-0 defeat at Dartford on Saturday when his curling effort in the second half struck the crossbar.

Bradbrook admitted it was a scrappy game but enjoyed playing in front of more than 2,000 supporters at Princes Park.

He added: "It was difficult one. It was one of those games which was all over the place really. Neither side created many opportunities and a defensive mix-up cost us. Everybody likes to play in these sort of games, there was a great atmosphere, but unfortunately we did not get the right result."

This Saturday the Stones host mid-table Boreham Wood at Bourne Park as they bid to get their play-off charge back on track.

Stones managers Lloyd Hume and Alan Walker will be boosted by the return of striker James Pinnock after he served a one-game suspension last week.

Defender Ben Lewis, who was forced off with an injury during the 1-0 defeat at Dartford, should be in contention for a start.

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**GILLS** Gills manager asks fans to give encouragement to Simeon Jackson



**AIMING TO IMPRESS:** Tom Sherreard hopes to earn a spot in the Walker Cup team

## Sherreard swings into the view of cup selectors

### GOLF

**TOM** Sherreard hopes to catch the eye of Walker Cup selectors while on England duty at the Jones Cup Invitational tournament in America this week.

The amateur golfer from Maidstone is part of the eight-man England team, who will battle against the best amateurs in the world, in the 54-hole Jones Cup event at Ocean Hills Golf Club in Georgia.

The tournament, which begins on Friday, is a prelude to the Walker Cup which takes place in September.

The Walker Cup follows the format of the Ryder Cup with the best amateurs from Great Britain and Ireland taking on America.

Sherreard, 21, who starred at last year's Open Championship at Royal Birkdale by finishing 19th, admitted one of the reasons he has decided to stay an amateur is to play in the Walker Cup.

He said: "The Walker Cup was certainly in my mind when I went into the Open Championship and my performance there should help me try and make the squad."

The Chart Hills Golf Club member is based in America studying at Georgia State University and feels there are advantages and disadvantages to be had from playing regularly in the States.

He said: "There are far more tournaments to play in out there compared to Britain which is good for my game, but it allows the USA team to see how I play which could be a problem."

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